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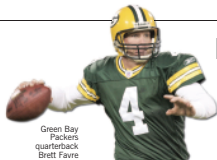
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Actor Alan Cumming



**21st TSC troops prep for deployment to Afghanistan**

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Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre

**Not done yet: Favre will play in 2005**

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Volume 63, No. 327 © SS 2005 G

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2005

50¢

# The death that took down an insurgency

**How one determined 3rd ID commander's response to a GI's death in Iraq brought a terror cell to its knees**

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER PHOTINO/Stars and Stripes

PHOTO BY STEVE HEBERT/Polaris

Iraqi Army soldiers salute during the playing of taps as fallen Cpl. Jacob Palmatier's fellow Battle Bords of the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment remember their fallen comrade during a Feb. 27 memorial at Forward Operating Base Normandy near Mungadiyah, Iraq. Palmatier, who was killed by a roadside attack, was the first soldier from 1-30 Infantry to die during this rotation to Iraq. His death — and the Battle Bords' subsequent hunt for his killers — led to the capture of several wanted terrorists.

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**Terror-funding case:** A three-year case that saw the government's star witness set himself on fire outside the White House ended with the convictions of a Yemeni sheik and his assistant on terror-funding charges.

After the verdict was announced Thursday, Sheik Mohammed Ali Hassan al-Moayad and his assistant, Mohammed Yahya Zayed, cried out in Arabic that they had been wrongly convicted because jurors had not seen all of the government's surveillance tapes.

Al-Moayad and Zayed were convicted of all but two of the 10 charges in an indictment that accused them of vital roles in a terror funding network that stretched from Brooklyn to Yemen.

**Human trafficking trial:** With the temperature inside a tractor-trailer full of illegal immigrants climbing higher and higher, Doris Argueta told jurors she prayed for her life.

"I asked God, 'Please I want to live.' I did not want to leave my children alone."

Argueta, 33, took the stand Thursday in the Houston trial of Tyrone Williams to describe what it was like to be trapped in a virtual oven — the temperature, authorities say, reached 173 degrees — and survive.

Williams was accused of driving and abandoning the big rig and could face the death penalty if convicted for his role in the deaths of 19 of the immigrants in the May 2003 smuggling attempt.

**Judge's relatives killed:** A DNA match from a cigarette butt convinced police that a Chicago electrician was the killer of a federal judge's husband and mother, authorities said. The cigarette butt found in Judge Joan Humphrey LeRoux's house was matched to the electrician, Bar Ross, who killed himself during a traffic stop in Wisconsin this week, and the evidence points to him as the lone killer, a police spokesman said.

**Red Sox death:** Federal officials want the manufacturer of a pepper-pellet gun used by Boston police when a college student was killed during Red Sox celebrations last fall to respond to Israeli police questions about the weapon's accuracy.

Tests by Israeli police on the FN303 weapon, which fires pepper projectiles, concluded that its accuracy "decreased significantly" after 300 rounds were fired, according to a March 2 letter from Sarah V. Hart, director of the National Institute of Justice, to the weapon's manufacturer, FN Herstal USA. Boston police fired the weapon into a crowd outside Fenway Park celebrating the Red Sox win over the New York Yankees in the AL Championship Series on Oct. 21.

Victoria Snelgrove, 21, an Emerson College student from East Bridgewater, was hit in the head and subsequently died. Thomas Drechsler, a lawyer who represents Officer Rochefort Milien, whom police have identified as the officer who fired the shot that hit Snelgrove, seized on the letter as proof that his client is not to blame, but the weapon is.

Milien has always maintained that he was not aiming at Snelgrove, but at someone near her who was throwing bottles, Drechsler said.

**Klansman accident:** Edgar Ray Killen, the reputed Klansman accused of killing three civil rights workers in 1964, was reported in good condition Friday after breaking both his legs in a logging accident.

A tree fell on the 80-year-old Killen while



**Slain Mounties:** Thousands of Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers follow four Mounties as they march for four officers Peter Schieman, 25; Leo Johnston, 32; Anthony Gordon, 28; and Brock Myrland, 29, all killed in the line of duty last week in Edmonton, Canada.

he was cutting timber Thursday, knocking him out and shattering the bones in both of his thighs, his attorney, Mitch Moran, told The Associated Press.

Killen, indicted by a Neshoba County grand jury in Mississippi in February on three counts of murder, is accused of orchestrating the killings of James Chaney, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman. A 1967 federal trial revealed that the killings were part of a Ku Klux Klan conspiracy.

He had been scheduled to stand trial April 18 in Jackson, Miss.

**California wildfire:** A lost hunter who set a signal fire that grew into the biggest wildfire in California history pleaded guilty Thursday in a deal with federal prosecutors that could put him behind bars for up to five years.

Sergio Martinez pleaded guilty to one count of starting the October 2003 Cedar fire. Driven by hot, dry winds, the fire killed 15 people and destroyed more than 2,000 homes in San Diego County.

**GOP leader sentenced:** The former executive director of the state Republican Party was sentenced Thursday to seven months in prison for jamming Democratic telephone lines during the 2002 general election.

Chuck McGee pleaded guilty to conspiring to make anonymous calls to annoy or harass. He also was fined \$2,000 and ordered to perform 200 hours of community service. He faced up to 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

## World

**France pedophilia trial:** After a day of shocking testimony, a massive pedophilia trial in France moved ahead Friday with the questioning of more lead suspects in the case.

Those to be heard included a woman accused of raping, sexually abusing, corrupting and prostituting children. She risks 20 years imprisonment. Under French law, she can only be identified as Patricia M. to preserve the anonymity of her alleged victims.

Her husband and father-in-law, both

charged with rape and sexual abuse of children, testified Thursday. The father-in-law coldly admitted that he "didn't give a damn" about his own children. His daughter told the court that he had raped her when she was young.

In all, 66 people are accused of involvement in the rape, sexual abuse and prostitution of children in Angers, 165 miles southwest of Paris.

**War crimes tribunal:** The war crimes charges against Kosovo's former Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj are nothing but "in-nuendo and lies" based on Serbian allegations, his lawyer said Friday.

Haradinaj surrendered to the U.N. war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia this week after being indicted on 37 counts of war crimes.

"A close study of the indictment shows that it is nothing more than a collection of allegations taken directly from Serbian files," said Michael O'Reilly, the coordinator of Haradinaj's legal council team.

**Ethiopian flash point:** U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has called on Ethiopia to pull its troops back from the border with neighboring Eritrea, saying the military build up there is a source of regional instability.

The two nations are deadlocked over the decision of an international boundary commission to award the town of Badme to Eritrea. The town was the flash point for their 1998-2000 war which cost each nation an estimated \$1 billion that left some 70,000 people dead.

**Concorde crash investigation:** A French magistrate formally placed Continental Airlines under investigation for the suspected role played by one of the U.S. carrier's jets in the crash of the supersonic Concorde in July 2000 that killed 113 people.

Two probes by experts — including one by the prosecutors' office — pointed to a titanium strip from a Continental jet as the source of the disaster.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

## Correction

In a brief on Page 2 of Friday's editions, The Associated Press misstated the expense of the Flight 93 memorial. A study said that \$30 million is a realistic fundraising goal for the project, but additional state and federal funds will be needed.

Comics, horoscopes  
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PHOTOS BY SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

An Air Force maintainer with the 52nd Fighter Wing removes the stabilizing blocks from the front wheel of an A-10 Thunderbolt II fighter on Thursday before the jet takes off from Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany. The 52nd's 22nd and 81st fighter squadrons flew more than 250 missions in four days as part of a "surge" exercise, which provided a test for the pilots and maintenance crew.

# Spangdahlem pilots, crew feel 'surge' of hectic week

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER  
Stars and Stripes

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — The pair of A-10 Thunderbolts stopped at the end of the runway and were swarmed by a team of airmen like NASCAR pit crews around a couple of stock cars.

Crew chiefs and weapons handlers from the 81st Fighter Squadron quickly got to work on Thursday as the jet engines continued to turn a deafening howl.

Inspect the tires for pebbles or other foreign objects? Check. Arm the weapons on the wings? Check. Scour the plane from nose to tail for any potential safety hazards? Check.

In less than five minutes, the team prepared the fighters for another training mission. By the end of the day, they would repeat the ritual more than three dozen times — a pace that would probably test the stamina of Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s pit crew.

Thursday's rapid-fire exercise gave pilots and maintainers a feel for what it is like to be at war for four days. Members of the 22nd and 81st Fighter Squadron called it Surge Week, a chance to test what both pilots and maintenance personnel can do while working at the rhythm of combat.

"For a lot of the young guys on both sides of the house, it's the first time they've ever been exposed to this type of a tempo," said Lt. Col. Brian Neumann, an F-16 pilot who serves as the director of operations for the 22nd Fighter Squadron.

Squadrons typically surge to make up for flight time lost due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, or to break up the monotony of the routine training schedule.



An Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II fighter takes off from Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany on Thursday. Many pilots and crewmembers doubled their workload as part of a "surge" exercise.

Surges also build confidence. From Sunday to Thursday, F-16 pilots with the 22nd and A-10 pilots with the 81st flew more than 250 missions. That's more than double what pilots usually fly. On average, pilots fly three to five times a week. During the past week, pilots flew as many as a dozen times.

"I just landed from my 12th mission," said Capt. Leigh Noel, catching her breath after her final mission for the day. "I'm really tired."

Pilots flew from dawn to dusk to reach their goal, while maintainers worked around the clock to repair the aircraft and keep them flying.

"They break, we fix; they break, we fix," said Chief Master Sgt. Darrin Dwyer, a chief maintainer with the 22nd. "We try and keep up the pace. It's a continuous merry-go-round. But if they fly at a higher rate, they break at a higher rate."

Pilots were encouraged to get plenty of rest and eat balanced

meals to stay sharp. Some pilots in the morning flew three missions in a row, meaning they stayed fastened into the cockpit for as long as seven hours.

"The bottom line is you have to take care of yourself and be ready for it," Neumann said. "Cause it is demanding, and it is busy."

Maintenance personnel worked 12-hour shifts, but Staff Sgt. Richard Armpriester said the workload makes the time go by faster.

"Things are so fast paced in a 12-hour shift, it goes by in about five hours," Armpriester said.

After the final mission Thursday night, squadron members hoped the intense flying showed how much work could be crammed into just four days. If the squadron is called to combat, the hope is that the younger airmen can draw from the training. "It's all about squeezing everything out of these troops that we can and showing them why it's done," Dwyer said.

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## Airmen adjust to England after 6-month tour in Iraq

BY RON JENSEN  
Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — On the 120-mile ride Friday from Heathrow Airport south of London to RAF Lakenheath, Senior Airman Mauro Velasquez winced every time a truck pulled alongside the Air Force van in which he was riding.

He cringed at the sight of a dead animal on the roadside. Abandoned cars? Don't even ask.

For the past six months, Velasquez and four other airmen sharing the ride have been traveling the dangerous roads of Iraq, where such things are a threat to life and limb, possible hiding places for a deadly roadside bomb.

"It's going to take a while to get used to it," he said of the non-threatening environment of England.

The five airmen from the Vehicle Operations Flight of the 48th Logistics Readiness Squadron arrived at the base during lunchtime Friday, welcomed by colleagues waving American flags and family members

wielding outstretched arms primed for hugs.

The airmen had been providing security for convoys in Iraq, a task undertaken by the Air Force more than a year ago when the Army asked for help.

In England, the airmen drive trucks to pick up and deliver aircraft parts, provide a wrecker service and chauffeur distinguished visitors.

"It's a huge jump," Master Sgt. Marvin Parker said of the change in duty.

Velasquez earned a Purple Heart on Nov. 18. A roadside bomb exploded near his truck. Something — he's not sure what — struck his helmet, slashing the outer cover and denting the Kevlar, giving him a concussion.

He was evacuated to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, and offered a chance to return to England.

"I decided to go back [to Iraq] and finish the tour and come home with my guys," he said.

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RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Antonio Andre and his wife, Angela, are reunited Friday at RAF Lakenheath, England, after his eight-month deployment to Iraq. Andre is with the Vehicles Operations Flight of the 48th Logistics Readiness Squadron. He and four other airmen were in Iraq to assist with convoy security.

## Baumholder triathlon to test athletes' endurance

Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — OK, you're bad to bone.

You do physical training three times a day. But can you swim .75 miles, hop on a bike and ride 39.8 miles, then cap it all off with a 7.5 mile run?

The city of Baumholder is going to give fitness freaks a chance to test their endurance with its inaugural triathlon, said Bernd Mai, who's overseeing advertising and media for the Baumholder Triathlon.

The event is planned for July 30, and will center on the Stadtweiher — a lake on the edge of Baumholder, just outside H.D. Smith Barracks, the base for 2nd Brigade and Division Artillery, 1st Armored Division.

Organizers are planning individual and team triathlons, in which three-person teams will compete. Team competition will require one member beginning the event riding, a second swimming and the third running, said Mai, a 222nd Base Support Battalion spokesman.

The individual competition will require each entrant to swim, bike and run in that order, he said.

For teams, there will be two competition categories: Category A will require a team member to bicycle 64 kilometers, another to swim 1.2 kilometers and the third to run 12 kilometers. In Category B, the distances will be halved.

Team members also will be recognized for how well they do separate from their team performance.

The running portion will be in downtown Baumholder, with the swimming in the city lake. Roads around the city will be closed for the cycling, Mai said.

The entry fee is 20 euros for individuals. For teams, the fee is 35 euros if they sign up by July 15, and 40 euros after, Mai said.

About 150 locals are volunteering from the city government and various civic organizations such as the fire department and life-guard club, which are triathlon sponsors. Baumholder's triathlon replaces one held from 2001 through last year in nearby Kusel, but the Kusel event ended because the city was unable to recruit enough volunteers, Mai said.

Organizers are planning to pick up the 150 teams that participated last year in Kusel, he said, with a total expected turnout of at least 450 to 500 people. The number of entries could be far higher with the possibility that Baumholder could become a qualifier for a German national triathlon, Mai said.

Winners will get a T-shirt for participating, but organizers haven't determined what winners will receive, he said.

For more information, go to [www.baumholder-triathlon.de](http://www.baumholder-triathlon.de). Registration can be done online.



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Lt. Col. Sean Higgins renders a salute at a casing the colors ceremony for the 29th Support Group in Kaiserslautern, Germany, on Friday. Higgins, the group's deputy commander, and about 1,100 servicemembers will be deploying to Afghanistan in the coming months and will form the Joint Logistics Command.

# Troops geared for deployment

## 1,100 29th Support Group soldiers to be in Afghanistan by July

BY STEVE MRAZ

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Col. Walter J. Sawyer, commander of the 29th Support Group, likened his soldiers' upcoming yearlong Afghanistan deployment to America's favorite pastime.

Sawyer told the roughly 150 soldiers Friday at the group's flag casing ceremony at Rhine Ordnance Barracks that similar to baseball players, the troops trained hard in the off-season and spring training is over.

"Now it's our turn in the batter's box, and make no mistake, we will make history," Sawyer said.

And even before Friday's ceremony ended, the 29th Support Group had made history: The event marked the first time the 29th Support Group's flag has been cased for combat since the

Vietnam War.

Soldiers in attendance represented the 330th Rear Operations Center, the 29th Support Group HHC Forward and the 29th Support Group HHC Rear. Those elements are part of 21st Theater Support Command, which by July will have deployed about 1,100 troops to Afghanistan for its joint logistics command mission.

The 21st TSC deployment comes as it is replacing elements of the 25th Infantry Division, which offered logistical support in Afghanistan.

The 330th ROC and 29th Sup-

port Group HHC Forward will leave for Afghanistan sometime next week to provide force protection and logistical support, respectively.

However, the 29th Support Group HHC Rear will stay behind in Germany to support deployed soldiers and their families.

Despite the inherent uncertainty of a hostile land, soldiers said after the ceremony that they were enthusiastic about their deployment.

For 1st Lt. T.J. Naputi with the 29th HHC Forward, a yearlong deployment to Bagram, Afghanistan, give him a shared experience with family

members. The Guam native's brother and brother-in-law recently served in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Two people from my family have been deployed before," said Naputi, a 24-year-old who will serve as a command liaison in Afghanistan. "I'm just excited to get my feet in the fire."

While operations in Iraq have received more media attention than Afghanistan, troops bound for the south central Asia country admitted the situation could get dangerous. The soldiers said they are ready to accept those risks, but the mission also has a deeper meaning for Capt. Lathrop Morse, a reservist with the 330th ROC.

"We're there to help (Afghanistan citizens) have a better life," he said. "The life we've come to expect and have sometimes taken for granted."

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*"Now it's our turn in the batter's box, and make no mistake, we will make history."*

Col. Walter J. Sawyer  
Commander,  
29th Support Group

# Memorial service to honor retired chief

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

It seems only fitting that Paul Thomas Hacker should pass away so close to "the flagpole."

A memorial service is planned next week for the retired Air Force chief master sergeant, a man who spent his later years bolstering the rights and benefits of retirees and their widows in military communities in Germany.

"He was a military person in his heart and soul," said Hacker's widow, Elizabeth Anne Hacker.

Hacker, 70, died Feb. 28 from what medical

officials suspect was a heart ailment, his wife said in a telephone interview. At the time he was stricken, the 30-year veteran was driving his car past the U.S. Air Forces in Europe headquarters building on Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Born in 1935, Hacker joined the Air Force when he was 19. In his three decades of service, he held many jobs, from instructor to data processor.

When he retired in the 1980s, Hacker became involved in retiree issues. He was the catalyst, for example, behind a policy change that benefited military widows who were also

foreign nationals. Essentially, he got a 30 percent levy against their monthly government entitlement rescinded.

"He was tenacious," said retired Air Force Lt. Col. Victor H. Musmanno. "He wanted to solve inequities."

Hacker is survived by his wife, stepson and two sisters. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the American Heart Association.

As per his wishes, Hacker will be laid to rest with full military honors Wednesday at Arlington National Cemetery.

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# Gen.: Navy is cutting amphib ships short

## Magnus says present number available isn't enough to be an effective force

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Marines' top resources official expressed serious concerns Thursday about the number of Navy ships and the ability of the fleet to rapidly deploy his troops to major combat operations overseas.

Marine Corps Deputy Commandant Lt. Gen. Robert Magnus said his forces need 28 to 30 amphibious assault vehicles ready for major combat operations. Currently, the Navy has 23 in its fleet.

He said the Navy's plan to build only four new ships next year — only one of which is an amphibious assault vehicle — leaves him worried about both services' futures.

"Quality is important, and we get the quality that we want," he told members of the House Armed Services Committee.

"But the quantity itself is a problem. It's a problem with having peacetime forward presence. It's a problem for being able to rapidly surge the right number of ships ... It's a problem for major combat operations."

Navy officials said their plans take into consideration both force capabilities and financial responsibility.

"If there were more money, we'd buy more ships," said John Young Jr., assistant secretary of

the Navy.

"But we believe we've struck the right balance." The fleet today consists of about 290 surface ships and submarines. In testimony before Congress last month, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark said that number could rise as high as 325 or drop as low as 243 in coming years, depending on budget constraints and technological breakthroughs.

Several representatives voiced concerns over the fleet size and limited shipbuilding schedule for fiscal 2006, for which \$8.7 billion is allotted in the proposed defense budget.

Over the next five years construction of 49 new ships is planned.

Rep. Jo Ann Davis, R-Va., also objected to Navy plans to decommission one of its aircraft carriers — reducing the fleet from 12 to 11 — saying she worries the fleet could drop even further temporarily if older carriers are retired or replaced by budgetary problems.

Magnus said he understands the need to modernize the fleet, and he said the improved efficiency of the replacement ships will allow the Navy to keep a somewhat smaller force with the same capabilities.

"Slipping or cutting the replacements is what concerns me," he said.

"The trend over time goes down ... When you need that capability in the future, it does concern me."

**Lt. Gen. Robert Magnus**

Marine Corps deputy commandant



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The amphibious assault ship USS Essex sails in the Persian Gulf last year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Navy has 23 such ships; the Marine Corps would like to see 28 to 30.



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## All smiles



JAYNE LOPPINOW/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Dallas Cowboys Cheerleader Jenni Craft strikes a pose with Alyssa Harmon, 6, during a visit to Darmstadt, Germany, Thursday. The cheerleaders worked with Child and Youth Services cheerleaders. Next stops on the tour include: Baumholder fitness center at 7 p.m. Saturday; Spangdahlem Air Base's fitness center at 6 p.m. Sunday; the fitness center at Chievres Air Base, Belgium, at 7 p.m. Tuesday; and at the RAF Mildenhall, England, fitness center at 7 p.m. Thursday. The final show is March 20 at 6 p.m. at the Keflavik, Iceland, Anderson Theater.

# Critics say Abu Ghraib probe a 'whitewash'

## Human rights groups, military watchdogs call for a new independent investigation

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Human rights groups and military watchdogs are labeling a recently released investigation into Abu Ghraib a whitewash and are joining calls by some top Congressional leaders for a new independent investigation.

The criticism comes in the wake of a nearly 400-page report authored by Vice Adm. Albert T. Church, who concluded that top-level policy makers could not be blamed for some 70 confirmed cases of abuse in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"Even in the absence of a precise definition of 'humane treatment,' it is clear that none of the pictured abuses at Abu Ghraib bear any resemblance to approved policies at any level, in any theatre," Church concluded in his report exonerating Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other Pentagon brass of accusations that they either encouraged or turned a blind eye to abuses.

Church was ordered by Rumsfeld to review existing investigations and explore any gaps that remain uncovered.

Briefing reporters Thursday afternoon, Church defended his report and stood by his decision not to interview Rumsfeld or Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Richard Myers as part of his investigation. He could have interviewed them, he made clear, but said he didn't have any questions for them.

But some top Congressional leaders say the investigation was not thorough enough.

"The Defense Department is not able to assess accountability at senior levels, particularly when investigators are in the

chain of command of the officials whose policies and actions they are investigating," charged Sen. Carl Levin, the ranking democrat on Senate Armed Services Committee, as Church was reporting his findings Thursday.

"Only an independent review can fully and objectively assess both the institutional and personal accountability for the abuse of detainees," Levin said.

A slew of human rights groups agree.

"This was the mother of all whitewashes," said Tom Malinowski, director of Human Rights Watch in Washington, D.C.

"Of all the internal reports that the Pentagon has produced, this is by far the weakest and most clearly geared towards exoneration of senior officials, rather than finding the truth," Malinowski said.

### Questions remain

Even as Church was briefing senators Thursday, the American Civil Liberties Union was raising the question of leadership accountability by releasing 800 pages of documents obtained from the Army under the Freedom of Information Act.

Among the documents is a report the group claims proves "a formal agreement between the Army and the CIA to hide 'ghost detainees' and an atmosphere of 'telegraphical abuse' that prevented innocent detainees from being freed," the ACLU said in a statement.

"It seems the military can only look down the chain of command, not up, when it comes to holding people accountable," ACLU Executive Director Anthony D. Romero said in the statement.

"An outside special counsel is



Vice Adm. Albert Church appears before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Capitol Hill Thursday, to discuss his review of Department of Defense prisoner detention operations and interrogation techniques.

the only way to ensure that all civilians who violated, or conspired to violate, the laws are held responsible for their crimes."

Church said he was permitted by Rumsfeld to fill in the gaps, but critics say he failed to do that.

"There are still too many questions that haven't been answered," said Winslow Wheeler, a senior fellow for the Center for Defense Information, an independent Pentagon watchdog group, who spent more than 30 years as an investigator for the Government Accounting Office and as a congressional aide.

"DOD reports on this don't cut it," Wheeler said. "It's like asking O.J. Simpson if he killed his wife. There needs to be independent inquiry that is not under chain of command, but unfortunately — to Congress's undying shame — we still do not have the full story on all this."

"Our concern is that there have been several investigations, but none of them so far have properly scrutinized senior officials," said Alistair Hodgget, a spokesman for Amnesty International. The question remains, he said, "What did senior officials in the Pentagon order and what responsibility do the bear?"

Meanwhile, activists point out only junior troops have faced courts-martial even while field commanders implicated in abuse by previous investigations remain unchanged — and in some cases still in command.

Col. Thomas Pappas, for example, remains commander of the Darmstadt, Germany-based 205th Military Intelligence Brigade and Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez is preparing V Corps to return to Iraq in less than a year.

"Unfortunately, it does appear that the higher up you are, the

less likely you are to be punished — and in fact may even be rewarded," Hodgget said.

Despite the calls for an independent review, a Pentagon spokesman said it was not being considered.

Meanwhile, Church dismissed criticism leveled at his report.

"I don't believe anybody can call this a whitewash. The facts are what the facts are. I was an independent investigator, an IG. I took that very seriously," said Church, adding "had the facts and the documentation led me to a different conclusion I would have made that conclusion."

Asked if he was surprised, a year after abuses first surfaced, no field commanders or senior officers had faced court martial charges yet, Church said criminal investigations were still under way.

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# Recent investigations into allegations of prisoner abuse

## Released investigations

■ **Taguba Report** — An internal Army "15-6 investigation" ordered by Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez on Jan. 31, 2001, and completed May 11, 2004. Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba accused soldiers in the 800th Military Police Brigade at Abu Ghraib of "sadistic, blatant and wanton criminal abuses." Responding to a senator's question about how such actions were possible, he responded:

"Failure in leadership, sir, from the brigade commander on down. Lack of discipline, no training whatsoever and no supervision. Supervisory omission was rampant."

■ **Mikolashek Investigation** — Army Inspector General Lt. Gen. Paul Mikolashek

was ordered to look into training and prison operations throughout U.S. Central Command in February 2004. He issued his report in July, finding 94 confirmed cases of abuse, but no evidence of leadership failure.

■ **Jones-Fay Report** — In another 15-6 (informal) investigation, Lt. Gen. Anthony Jones and Maj. Gen. George Fay were ordered in April 2004 to look into alleged misconduct by members of the 205th MI Brigade and operations at Abu Ghraib. Their findings, released in August, accused the 205th's commander Col. Thomas Pappas and commander of the 800th MP Brigade of wrongdoing. Their investigation also said Sanchez and his deputy Maj. Gen. Walter Wujdakowski failed to provide proper oversight at Abu Ghraib and the units there.

■ **Schlesinger Report** — An independent panel led by former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger commissioned by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in May. Findings released in August largely corroborated the Jones-Fay report.

"Commanding officers and their staffs at various levels failed in their duties and that such failure contributed directly or indirectly to detainee abuse," reads the report, singling out Sanchez, Wujdakowski, Karpinski, Pappas and Jordan, among others.

■ **Church Report** — Tasked by Rumsfeld in May, Navy Inspector Gen. Vice Adm. Albert Church was ordered to provide the broadest look at the scandal so far, assessing previous investigations and while delving into gaps not covered by them.

## Still pending:

■ **Army IG** — The Army Inspector General's office, overseen by the Defense Department IG, is looking into specific accusations of misconduct by senior officers. Most of those investigations are wrapping up with the results of some now being briefed to members of Congress.

■ **Formica Report** — Brig. Gen. Richard Formica has been tasked with looking at Special Operations units and their role in possible detainee abuse.

■ **Jacoby Report** — Launched in May 2004, Brig. Gen. Charles Jacoby was ordered to look into detainee operations in Afghanistan.

— Jon R. Anderson

# Relatives bury dozens of victims of suicide attack

BY SINDBAD AHMED

The Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq — Angry, weeping relatives on Friday buried dozens of people killed a day earlier in a suicide attack at separate funerals in this northern Iraqi city as plans for a mass funeral procession were canceled because of fears it would be attacked.

The bloodshed came as Shiite and Kurdish politicians in Baghdad said they overcame a major stumbling block to forming a new coalition government.

The two groups agreed on the makeup of the three-member Presidency Council, which would include Jalal Talabani as Iraq's first Kurdish president and a Sunni and Shiite Arab for the two vice president posts, said Ali al-Dabagh of the Shiite clergy-backed United Iraqi Alliance.

Names were not announced for those jobs and al-Dabagh said differences remain over the future deployment of non-Kurdish Iraqi army units in Kurdistan, officials said.

Hundreds of men, women and children crowded the main hospital in Mosul, trying to find and identify the 50 dead and more than 100 wounded in Thursday's blast at a funeral tent jammed with Shiite mourners.

The Army raised the death toll from 47 to "at least 50" in an announcement in Baghdad. At least 10 of the seriously injured had been taken to one of its military hospitals.

"I cannot describe the amount of despair I feel," said Shereen Mohammed Ali. "I lost seven of my sons, brothers and cousins. I want to know who carried out this attack."

Shiite mosques and funerals have become a frequent target of Sunni-led insurgents. Last month, suicide bombers attacked a number of them during the Shiite commemoration of Ashura, killing nearly 100 people.

Mosul has been a hotbed of guerrilla activity, and the scene of many bombings, drive-by shootings and assassinations targeting the country's security services, Shiite Muslims and people thought to be working with U.S.-led forces.

At Baghdad's Um al-Qura mosque, a Sunni Muslim cleric denounced bombings, but blamed Iraq and U.S. authorities for failing to provide security.

Family members and politicians agreed no joint funeral would be held Saturday in Mosul because of the "fear of another at-

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, March 10, 2005, at least 1,512 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,151 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Thursday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

■ The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

tack like this one," said Hamid Zain al-Ah, a member of the Al-Sadr Movement of firebrand Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, whose militants rose up against U.S. troops several times in 2004.

In central Baghdad, a car loaded with gunmen opened fire at a main hotel housing foreigners and one bystander driving a car was killed in an exchange of gunfire with guards. Another driver in a car with three children was seriously injured.

Dealing with the persistent insurgency will be a main task for a new Iraqi government.

Officials said the deal between the Shiite clergy-backed United Iraqi Alliance and the Kurdish parties opens the way for naming a Cabinet when Iraq's democratically elected National Assembly convenes Wednesday.

"We are almost finished with the basic matters and we will meet again to finalize things before Monday," al-Dabagh said.

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MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Michelle Naylor, on her third tour in Afghanistan, speaks to women Thursday during a series of discussions on women's rights.

## GI works for Afghan women's rights

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

NASAGI GULBAR, Afghanistan — It took about 150 years for women to get the right to vote in the United States, and decades longer to achieve equal rights under the law. So in some respects, women are off to a solid start in a democratic Afghanistan.

About 150 women gathered Thursday at Alharam University to hear a series of speakers tout women's rights in a country where — especially under the Taliban — females have long been considered second-class citizens.

"As women, we want to have equal rights when it comes to this society," said Shirin Sahar, one of the event's organizers.

Parween Kohistani, director of women's affairs for the province of Kapisa, said the U.S.-led invasion that drove the Taliban from power provided a big boost for women.

"It has improved a lot in the last

three years," she said through a translator.

Another translator was needed for one of the event's keynote speakers: Sgt. Michelle Naylor.

The New York native is serving her third tour in Afghanistan. She grew up a short distance from Seneca Falls, a key spot in the women's suffrage movement in the 1920s.

The Afghan women, as Naylor pointed out, made up about 40 percent of those casting votes in the country's first presidential elections last year. She told the audience that she hoped an even higher percentage would turn out in the parliamentary elections, scheduled for sometime this year.

Naylor said she's not used to speaking in front of so many people, but she said this issue is an important one. She brushed off any pressure about being a role model — dressed in desert camouflage — for hundreds of women.

"Every female who goes outside the wire here is a role model," she said.

In her speech, Naylor touched on a few of the key events in the women's suffrage movement in the United States. Then she told her audience that they can expect moral support, but not as much help as they might like from the United States and its allies.

"Every woman in every country has struggled to gain their rights," she said. "Gaining your rights is something you need to do for yourselves."

After the speakers were finished, Naylor and a handful of civil affairs soldiers handed out hundreds of new dresses the military had purchased from local tailors. There were also dozens of toys for the kids who came along with them.

The soldiers then ate lunch with their hosts before taking the bumpy road back to Bagram Air Base, leaving the Afghan women to face a path with more than a few rough stretches of its own.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris.k@mail.esd.mil

# 39th Brigade passes torch at Camp Taji

## Progress visible from 11-month deployment

By VINCE LITTLE  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Army Staff Sgt. Jeffery Bergan still recalls his welcome to Baghdad last April while traveling north from Kuwait.

"When we first came into the city, our convoy got ambushed," he said. "It was all peaceful through southern Iraq. Then, in Baghdad, we got engaged right away. They told us it would happen, but that first live round is still a shock to the system."

Nearly a year later, the 31-year-old from Beebe, Ark., a battle noncommissioned officer for the 39th Brigade Combat Team's tactical operations center, says things have calmed down dramatically. Rocket and mortar attacks on Taji have dropped, and even the convoys coming up from Kuwait now encounter few problems.

So perhaps it was fitting that 39th Brigade officials quietly handed authority to the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division in a low-profile ceremony Wednesday. The operational area extends about 20 kilometers north of Taji and south into Baghdad, down to Sadr City and east of the Tigris River.

The brigade, with almost 3,700 soldiers in Iraq, began pulling out Sunday for Kuwait on the long road back to Little Rock, Ark. It has units in 47 towns throughout Arkansas and nine other states. Counting a five-month training stint prior to the deployment, most troops will wind up being away from home for about 18 months.

Before the unit took command here, five of its soldiers died in separate mortar attacks on Taji, while another was killed in an ambush west of the camp. One lost a leg on a bridge during its initial convoy attacks entering Baghdad.

Brig. Gen. Ronald S. Chastain, the 39th Brigade Combat Team commander, declined to say how many casualties the unit suffered after gaining authority, but lauded the performance and sacrifices made by his soldiers.

"When you lose four people from one company in a rocket attack, that's pretty devastating," he said. "Our soldiers have been through a lot."

Roadside bombs posed the greatest danger to 39th Brigade soldiers, he added, causing multiple casualties. In one incident, three soldiers were killed by a blast while responding to wounded personnel from another attack.

In late January, a huge explosion ripped open the bottom of an M1 tank. The brigade also lost a few Bradley fighting vehicles to the roadside devices.

When the 39th Brigade arrived, installation security was tight, Chastain said. Soldiers immediately started placing sandbags and concrete around living areas and office buildings.

Chastain said he regrets that brigade soldiers never managed to develop stronger ties with Iraqis living north of Taji, an area that was very dependent on the Saddam Hussein regime. Many worked on the facility, which had been an Iraqi air base before the war.

"We did not maintain continuity with those people in the northern area," Chastain said. "Success with the Iraqi people is based on building personal relationships. We were not able to do that in the northern area."

Two Iraqi National Guard battalions and a company of Iraqi Army commando received training and equipment from the 39th Brigade, he said, which led to the successful elections Jan. 30.

Within the sector during the past year, two massive Shiite marches to the Khadamiyah Shrine were staged through Sunni regions. They were accompanied by very little violence, and Chastain credits the brigade's work with Iraqi National Guard and Iraqi Police officials.



VINCE LITTLE/Stars and Stripes

Capt. Kevin Eestep, 35, of Springdale, Ark., medical officer for 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery Regiment, 39th Brigade Combat Team, packs his last locker at Camp Taji, Iraq. About 3,700 soldiers with the 39th Brigade Combat Team began heading home this week. The unit's authority was transferred Wednesday to the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

*"When you lose four people from one company in a rocket attack, that's pretty devastating. Our soldiers have been through a lot."*



Brig. Gen. Ronald S. Chastain  
39th Brigade Combat Team commander

Bergan said he had very little faith in Iraqi security forces when he first arrived, but that's changed.

"I didn't know if I really wanted to go out with these guys," he added. "We trained extensively with them. Now, I'm pretty confident they can perform. They put out a show of force that has made security a lot better."

The 39th Brigade Combat Team also featured the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Task Force — its lone active-duty element — a Macedonian special-forces platoon and Army Reserve detachments.

"It certainly wasn't a pure National Guard unit," Chastain said. "Our soldiers have done awfully well. They really have."

Bergan hopes that'll help shed some negative perceptions about National Guard members.

"They say we're the ones who never engage, never deploy. The National Guard always stays back," he said. "I believe we actually proved ourselves."

E-mail Vince Little at: [littlev@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:littlev@stripes.osd.mil)

## 1st AD brigade finds scene has changed since 1st tour

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — The 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division is now responsible for a chunk of Baghdad that's been transformed politically since the unit began its first rotation in Iraq two years ago, the unit's top military official said.

The Fort Riley, Kan.-based division, with 3,500 soldiers, arrived in mid-February.

It officially took charge Wednesday of a sector that runs from the inner-city to the more rural, agricultural areas in the northern outskirts.

About 60 percent of the brigade also took part in the initial phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom, with many closing that first tour at Taji, according to Army Col. David Bishop, the brigade's commander.

"They've got a lot of continuity and understanding that most new units don't have here," he said Wednesday.

"Our [area of operation] is large and diverse... [so] we've got to have a diverse approach to how we deal with people and the situation here."

Since the division's last tour in Iraq, political power was transferred to the new Iraqi government and the nation's first free election took place. Two more elections are scheduled this year as Iraqi ministries continue to take control of their respective areas.

"Coalition forces are working more in a supportive role with the Iraqi government than we were last time," Bishop said.

"We want to continue fighting the insurgency, but at the same time, we have to train, mentor and coach the Iraqi security forces to the point where they can conduct security missions on their own for the Iraqi people."

"It's a very doable challenge. Every day, I see Iraqis taking over more missions that used to be handled solely by U.S. forces."

Bishop points to Baghdad, where the Iraqi 40th Brigade is in control of a critical sector.

At Taji, the 307th Iraqi Army Battalion has its own area and works closely with the U.S. military. When its training is complete, he said, the unit will be assigned a zone by the Iraqi brigade.

The Iraqi Army has displayed a great passion to take over additional responsibilities and tasks from coalition forces, Bishop said.

"There are a lot of good leaders, soldiers with promise," he added. "There's a genuine desire by the Iraqi Army to get insurgents off the streets. There are reports that the Iraqi people are getting tired of insurgents, too, and they've started turning them in to coalition and Iraqi forces."

During the next year, Bishop hopes to continue rooting out terrorists and training Iraqi forces so they can pick up more of that battle — all while protecting his own soldiers and returning them safely to the United States.

— VINCE LITTLE



Cpl. Jacob C. Palmatier ~ November 11, 1975 - February 24, 2005

# "Everything just started flying"

## GI's death changed way Battle Boars pursued mission, led to capture of key suspects

BY DAVID ZUCCHINO  
Los Angeles Times

When his battalion took charge here in mid-February, Lt. Col. Roger Cloutier made a vow to himself and his soldiers: If one of them was attacked, the entire battalion would respond swiftly and violently.

"We will hunt down the enemy if he attacks us," the colonel told his staff. "I don't want to give him any rest or refuge. I want to haunt his dreams."

A week later, Cpl. Jacob Palmatier, a 29-year-old administrative clerk, asked to be relieved of desk duty to man a grenade launcher on a convoy headed south. He was in the turret of a five-ton truck when two slivers of shrapnel from a roadside bomb tore into his midsection.

Minutes into one of his first combat missions, Palmatier bled to death on the side of the road, the 41st American troop to die in Iraq.

It was the first combat death in Iraq for the Battle Boars of the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, and it set in motion a series of events that transformed the battalion's very presence here.

It triggered a manhunt that penetrated an insurgent cell, leading to the capture of eight suspected cell leaders. It precipitated a showdown that redefined the relationship between Cloutier and local sheiks and mayors. It forged tighter bonds between the Battle Boars and the local Iraqi army battalion, energizing an investigation into that unit's infiltration by insurgents.

But more than anything, the repercussions of that single American death fulfilled a commander's promise in a way that gave his soldiers a measure of grim satisfaction and a sense that they were somehow more secure.

"It was the catalyst," Cloutier said, red-eyed and weary after two days of round-the-clock raids and firefights after Palmatier's death. "It was like pulling out the one log that breaks the logjam. Everything just started flowing."

The colonel confronted the local political establishment, threatening villages with an invasion of tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles. "This will not stand," he told tribal sheiks and village mayors, demanding that they divulge the names of the insurgents who were responsible for the bombing.

Palmatier's boss, 1st Lt. David Suttles, a smooth-cheeked corporal four days younger than the corporal, was with him when he died.

Suttles believes Palmatier's was a meaningful death in which good flowed from tragedy.

"Because of the response to the



STEVE HEBERT/Polaris Image

Lt. David Suttles hold back tears while he speaks during the memorial service for Cpl. Jacob Palmatier at Forward Operating Base Normandy near Muqadaiyah, Iraq. Palmatier was the first soldier from 1/30 Infantry to die during this rotation to Iraq, when the vehicle he was riding in was hit by an IED on Feb. 24.

**"We will hunt down the enemy if he attacks us. I don't want to give him any rest or refuge. I want to haunt his dreams."**

Lt. Col. Roger Cloutier  
Battle Boars of the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment  
of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division commander

attack, and what we learned and what we did afterward, everyone in this battalion will be safer because of his death," Suttles said, smoking a cigarette on his cot just down the hall from Palmatier's bunk.

At 7:17 a.m. on Feb. 24, a bright, sunny Thursday, someone hiding in a field used a cellphone to trigger an explosive charge attached to two 130-millimeter artillery shells as Palmatier's truck rumbled past.

Within minutes, Palmatier was dying and his buddies inside the truck cab, Pfc. Stephen Fuller and Pfc. Marcus Riles, were wounded and struggling to escape from the wreckage.

At Forward Operating Base Normandy, a fortified camp in the area, Cloutier was shaving. He was in a buoyant mood; he had just been told that two insurgents had been blown up and killed while trying to set a roadside bomb. Minutes later, he was told that a man was down on the morning's combat logistical convoy, carrying mail and supplies.

Cloutier sent a quick-reaction force to search for suspects. He surrounded the site with tanks and Bradleys. His Iraqi army counterpart, Col. Theer Ismael Abid Tamimi, set up eight roving checkpoints around Muqadaiyah,

a market town in the flat farm country on the edge of the Sunni Triangle 60 miles northeast of Baghdad.

At one checkpoint, Iraqi soldiers stopped a gray Opel. A similar car had been used in the assassinations of an Iraqi sergeant major Feb. 20 and a city councilman two days later. Inside, according to military officials, were High-Value Targets Nos. 6 and 8 on the battalion's list of the 10 most-wanted insurgents in its sector of Diyala province.

At the bomb site, Cloutier summoned the city's mayor and police chief. He forced them to look at the blood and wreckage. He warned them, "We're not going to play this game."

The colonel conveyed the same message to tribal sheiks and the mayors of surrounding villages. "I told them I knew that they knew who did this," Cloutier said. The colonel ordered local officials to report to his office at 5 p.m. that day with a list of suspects' names.

Cloutier also wanted to send a message to his soldiers. He had them pick up every bit of metal and paper and wreckage at the site.

They wiped up every drop of blood. He didn't want to leave anything for the insurgents to claim as trophies.

Late that afternoon, sheiks, mayors and police officials filed into Cloutier's sparsely furnished office inside a former Iraqi military compound, just past a stuffed boar's head mounted over the operations center.

Now, 10 hours after Palmatier's death, Cloutier was seething. He did not greet the men. He did not offer them tea. He did not stand.

For nearly an hour, he railed at the Iraqis. "I told them I have money in one hand and tanks in the other," he said. "I asked them what they wanted: the money or the tank."

After he finished, the colonel pressed and said, "Now I want names."

The Iraqis handed him 13 names of alleged insurgents, he said. One by one, he asked the officials to promise to support him and the newly elected Iraqi government against the insurgents.

Each man agreed, he said. Information provided by the officials, along with intelligence from the interrogation of the two suspects from the checkpoint, helped lead Abid and Cloutier to High-Value Target No. 2. The suspect, who had been hunted for a year by the previous battalion in Muqadaiyah, was traced to a pair of prefabricated houses along Lake Hamrin near the Iranian border, Cloutier said.

The next night, a convoy of armored Humvees and Bradleys rolled out of Normandy, accompanied by soldiers from Abid's 205th Iraqi army battalion. At the edge of the lake, the American vehicles surrounded two houses.

Iraqi soldiers broke through the front door of the first house. In a bedroom with his wife, his young children asleep in another bedroom, was Target No. 2, Commanders, citing security concerns, did not release the names of detained suspects.) Soldiers found weapons, ammunition and bomb-making materials in the two houses, intelligence officers said. Also recovered, they said, were documents linking the detained man to guerrillas from the war-torn Russian republic of Chechnya and a photograph of the suspect in Syria with other insurgents.

The next day, soldiers returned to the houses, using sticks to punch out foam ceiling tiles. From above a child's bedroom, a machine gun, a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and a bag of ammunition clattered to the floor. Soldiers also found booklets titled "Jihad in Iraq" and two identity cards, both with Target No. 2's photo and the words in English: "Syndicate of Honorable Gentlemen in Iraq."

Under interrogation, Target No. 2 provided the names of seven local men who he said served as financiers and planners for the cell, intelligence officers said. The following night, in three raids in downtown Muqadaiyah, Iraqi soldiers backed by American troops stormed into several homes and detained five of the seven.

Less than 72 hours after Palmatier's death, three of the battalion's 10 most-wanted men had been captured, along with five others alleged to be key members of the cell.

Cloutier said three of the suspects had ordered the bombing that killed Palmatier. Officials also obtained the name of the man who had planted the bomb, he and an intelligence officer added.

On Sunday, the battalion assembled in full battle gear for the corporal's memorial service, flanked by dozens of Iraqi soldiers in scarlet berets. Palmatier's rifle, boots, helmet and dog tags were arranged on a pedestal, along with his Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

Cloutier and Suttles fought back tears as they rose to speak. The lieutenant said Palmatier was doing his job perfectly, scanning the zone for the next target, when he died.

The colonel said, "If you measure a man's wealth by the number of people who love him, you'd have to say Jacob Palmatier was rich indeed."

## IN THE WORLD

## Spain marks anniversary of Madrid train bombings

By MAR ROMAN

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Spaniards lit candles, laid down flowers and observed a long, mournful silence Friday to mark the first anniversary of the country's worst terrorist attack, when 10 al-Qaida bombs ripped through crowded commuter trains, killing 191 and wounding more than 1,500.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia led government leaders and other dignitaries during the main memorial — a silent, five-minute noon vigil inaugurating a grove of 192 olive and cypress trees, one for each person killed last March 11 and a policeman aimed when Islamic militant suspects seeking to avoid arrest beat themselves up.

The grove in Madrid's main park has been christened the "Forest of the Absent."

Without bells or other signal, the normally bustling Spanish square paused for five minutes of quiet remembrance at the designated time of noon. Trains made unscheduled stops at stations.

Construction workers on scaffolding put down their tools. Office workers poured into the streets.

After the vigil, a young cellist dressed in black played "Song of the Birds" by Pablo Casals, a piece the late Spanish cellist had written in dedication to peace.

"I feel so sad. It was so unfair," said Bakea Goitia, a 48-year-old civil servant. She recalled the day of the bombing as "catastrophic. Everything seemed to go out of control."

Goitia was part of a crowd of thousands stretching as far as the eye could see along Paseo de la Castellana, Madrid's main north-south artery, grieving over an attack that cut across nationality, killing immigrants from Ecuador to Ukraine, from France to the Philippines.

At Atocha, a crowd of at least 1,000 people broke into applause after observing the five minutes of si-



A man prays after lighting a candle to commemorate the victims of the March 11, 2004, train bombings at Madrid's Atocha train station on Friday.

ence. Clapping after a funeral is a common Spanish way of paying one's respects.

Attached to a railing overlooking the platform that was bombed was a single red rose with a sign that said, "For you, my love, who are no longer with me."

## Syrian troops leave north Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon — The last Syrian troops left northern Lebanon on Friday but left behind intelligence agents in nine offices, while the U.N. Mideast envoy said Syria needs to produce a timetable for a full withdrawal from the rest of Lebanon.

Under international pressure, Syria this week began pulling its 14,000 forces back to the eastern Bekaa Valley. It is to negotiate with the government on their withdrawal from Lebanon at a later date.

Convoys of Syrian trucks, some towing artillery pieces, were seen driving Thursday night toward northern Syria.

## EU threatens to take Iran to N.U.

VIENNA, Austria — The European Union will support U.S. calls to bring Tehran before the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions unless it agrees to scrap the technology that can be used to make nuclear arms, according to a document obtained Friday by The Associated Press.

If Iran does not agree, "We shall have no choice but to support referring Iran's nuclear program to the U.N. Security Council," said the confidential EU document on the state of negotiations on uranium enrichment between Iran, Germany, France and Britain.

## Warning issued of 'possible' attack

JAKARTA, Indonesia — The U.S. Embassy on Friday warned its citizens to stay away from the World Trade Center shopping mall in the Indonesian capital because of a "possible bomb threat" in the next three days.

A message posted on the Embassy Web site said U.S. officials "are aware of a possible bomb threat against World Trade Center Mangga Dua in North Jakarta for the period 11-14 March."

## Vietnamese angered over the dismissal of Agent Orange lawsuit

The Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — A Vietnamese group expressed anger Friday over a U.S. judge's dismissal of a historic class-action lawsuit claiming American chemical companies had committed war crimes by making the defoliant Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.

U.S. District Judge Jack B. Weinstein threw out the case in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Thursday, saying he did not agree that Agent Orange and similar herbicides should be considered poisons banned under international rules of war.

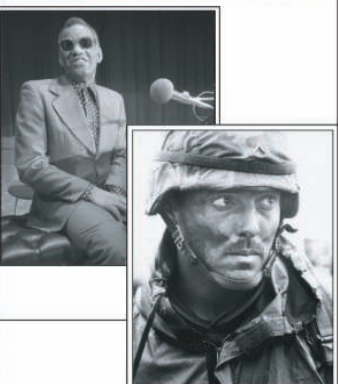
U.S. aircraft sprayed more than 21 million gallons of defoliant, mostly Agent Orange, on Vietnam from 1962-71 to de-

stroy crops and remove communist forces' cover. It has been blamed for a vast range of health problems.

"We are disappointed. ... Weinstein has turned a blind eye before the obvious truth. It's a shame for him to put out that decision. We just want justice, nothing more," said Nguyen Trong Nhan, vice president of the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange. He said the group was thinking of filing an appeal.

The lawsuit was the first attempt by Vietnamese plaintiffs to seek compensation for the effects of Agent Orange, which contains the toxic chemical dioxin and has been linked to cancer, diabetes and birth defects among Vietnamese soldiers and civilians and U.S. veterans.

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## U.S. man investigated for threats

BERLIN — A U.S. man is being investigated for warning that someone would fly planes into a cathedral in Mainz during President Bush's visit to Germany last month, a prosecutor said Friday.

The suspect, a Mainz resident whose name was not released, sent a fax to a Berlin hotel on Feb. 22 saying that four Cassia planes were going to fly into the city's cathedral the next day, when U.S. first lady Laura Bush and her German counterpart Doris Schroeder-Kopf were to visit, said Mainz prosecutor Klaus-Peter Mieth.

## Chess champ Kasparov retires

MOSCOW — Garry Kasparov, the chess world's youngest-ever champion and undisputed king the last two decades, made a stunning move shortly after winning a prestigious tournament in Spain: He retired from professional play.

The announcement by the world's No. 1 ranked chess player since 1984 came shortly after he won the 14-match Linares tournament in Spain on Thursday, despite losing the final game.

## Iranian protestors released

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Police released 56 Iranian pro-monarchist protesters after removing them from a Lufthansa plane early Friday, ending a 15-hour protest by the group against the Iranian government, a spokeswoman said.

About 90 police officers forcefully removed the protesters from the plane, which was moved away from the terminal at Brussels airport after negotiations failed to end the protest at 3:30 a.m., Police spokeswoman Els Cleemput said.

From The Associated Press



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## IN THE STATES

# Judge and two others fatally shot in Atlanta

BY HARRY R. WEBER  
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A judge presiding over a rape trial was shot to death Friday along with two other people at the Fulton County Courthouse. A fourth person was critically wounded and she was expected to survive because the bullet did not go any deeper than her skin, said Dr. Jeffery Salomone, the attending surgeon.

The judge was shot on the eighth floor of the courthouse, while one of deputies was shot on a street corner just outside the building, said police Officer Alan Osborne.

"I saw one person on the street that they were performing CPR on," said court reporter Amy McKee.

Authorities were searching for a green 1997 Honda Accord that was carjacked from a newspaper reporter who the suspect pistol-whipped in a nearby parking garage.

The suspect was identified as 33-year-old Brian Nichols, who was on trial on rape and

other charges stemming from an incident in August. It was not immediately known how the suspect got a gun. His whereabouts were still unknown hours after the shooting.

"Mr. Nichols is considered armed and extremely dangerous and should not be approached. ... We are not going to rest until we find him," Fulton County Sheriff Myron Freeman said.

Nichols apparently obtained the gun somewhere between the courthouse's detention area and Barnes' courtroom, where Nichols' trial was set to resume in the afternoon, said Fulton County District Attorney's spokesman Erik Friedly. He said Barnes was hearing civil cases at the time of the shooting.

"It's my understanding he made his way into the courtroom on his own," Friedly said of Nichols.

County employee Ali Lamei, who works on a floor below where the shooting started, said he was told by officers in the building that a sheriff's sergeant was escorting a prisoner when the prisoner grabbed the sergeant's gun and shootings occurred.

"We heard some noise. It sounded like



Nichols



**Law enforcement personnel gather outside the Fulton County Courthouse in Atlanta on Friday. At least three people, including Fulton County Superior Judge Rowland Barnes and a deputy, were shot and killed in the courthouse earlier.**

three or four shots. At the time, we thought it was just an engine backfiring," said Chuck Cole, a civil defense attorney who was in an adjoining parking deck when he heard gunfire at around 9:10 a.m.

Don O'Brian, a features reporter for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, was carjacked by the fleeing suspect at a downtown parking garage as the reporter was arriving to work, said Mary Dugense, a spokeswoman for the newspaper.

She said O'Brian was being treated at a nearby hospital and was in good condition.

## Iran deal may be near

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration will support European diplomatic efforts to end Iran's nuclear weapons ambitions by offering modest economic incentives to the Tehran regime, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Friday.

The administration agreed to drop objections to Iran's eventual membership in the World Trade Organization and agreed to allow some sales of civilian aircraft parts to Tehran, she said in a statement released by the State Department.

Rice said the administration will consider allowing the spare parts sales on a case-by-case basis. Many of the sales would be from European Union countries.

There was no immediate response from Tehran.

## Fla. right-to-die case

TAMPA, Fla. — A man fighting to have a feeding tube removed from his brain-damaged wife on Friday rejected a California businessman's offer to pay him \$1 million to give up his right to decide her medical treatment.

Thursdays's offer, which the husband's attorney labeled "offensive," came hours after a judge refused to let the state's social services agency intervene — a move that would have delayed next week's scheduled removal of the tube.

Other such offers, including one for \$10 million, had already been made by European Union countries. Schiavo, said his attorney, George Felos.

## Social Security support

WASHINGTON — President Bush loses backing from independents, women and older Americans when he changes the topic from terrorism and foreign policy to overhauling Social Security, an Associated Press poll found.

While a majority of Americans approve of Bush's handling of terrorism and foreign policy, just over a third, 37 percent, like his approach to Social Security.

Some polls indicate he's been losing ground on the Social Security issue.

From The Associated Press

# U.S. admits to role in looting Holocaust train

The Associated Press

MIAMI — The federal government on Friday reached a \$25.5 million settlement with the families of Hungarian Holocaust victims and will acknowledge the U.S. Army's role in commandeering a trainload of the families' treasures during World War II.

Under the terms of the settlement, the money will be distributed to needy Hungarian Holocaust

survivors rather than individual claimants who lost family possessions.

About \$21 million in funding for humanitarian services will be distributed to social service agencies worldwide based on the percentage of survivors.

Up to \$3.85 million is proposed for legal fees and costs. A total of \$500,000 would fund an archive on the so-called Nazi "Gold Train" for scholarly and educa-

tional uses.

"The case never really was about money. It was about having a reckoning with history," said Sam Dubbin, one of the families' lawyers. He called the agreement "a great outcome."

The Justice Department, which negotiated on behalf of the government, issued a statement saying it was "very pleased to announce" the settlement but said it would be inappropriate to add

comment on a pending legal matter.

A commission appointed by then-President Clinton concluded in 1999 that high-ranking U.S. Army officers and troops plundered the train after it was intercepted on its way to Germany in May 1945.

The train carried gold, jewels, 1,200 paintings, silver, china, porcelain and other heirlooms seized from Jewish families by the Nazis.

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## Clinton recovering

NEW YORK — Former President Clinton was in good spirits and looking forward to getting on his feet after surgery to remove scar tissue and fluid from his left lung, his wife said.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and their daughter, Chelsea, were at the hospital Thursday as doctors cleaned up complications from Clinton's heart bypass operation of six months ago.

Hospital officials predicted "even better than a full recovery" for the former president following the four-hour operation and predicted Clinton would be walking within 24 hours.

## Suspected mob ties

NEW YORK — Two retired police detectives living in Las Vegas and double-crossing as Mafia hitmen while on the force and gave confidential information to the mob for more than a decade, federal prosecutors charged.

Louis Eppolito and his former partner, Stephen Caracappa, were arrested Wednesday night at a restaurant of the Las Vegas Strip, law enforcement officials said Thursday.

Each is charged with eight counts of racketeering, including murders, murder conspiracy, obstruction of justice, drug distribution and money laundering.

## Wrong drug given

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center administered the wrong kind of penicillin to more than 650 patients who were being treated for syphilis or who had reported having contact with someone known or believed to have the disease, a federal investigation has shown.

That's more than twice as many patients as previously thought.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday that the inadvertent use of the wrong drug was discovered only after a patient read a package insert stating that the medicine he had received was not intended for treatment of syphilis.

Use of the wrong drug by the Gay & Lesbian Center began in January 1999 and continued until the error was discovered a year ago, officials said. At that time, about 300 patients were thought to have been given the wrong drug.

## New rule limits smog

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration set new limits on smog and soot pollution Thursday with the aim of benefiting tens of millions of people who live downwind of the dirtiest coal-fired power plants in the East, South and Midwest.

The new regulation covers 28 states, mostly east of the Mississippi River, and the District of Columbia. It requires most of them to cut smog-forming nitrogen oxides and soot-producing sulfur dioxide that can drift by wind long distances across state lines, the Environmental Protection Agency said.

From wire services

# Free details relations with Jackson

BY TIM MOLLOY  
The Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — In testimony that was hushed and sometimes mumbled, Michael Jackson's accuser described a night at the Neverland ranch that he said started off in the arcade and ended in the entertainer's bed.

The 15-year-old boy told jurors Thursday that Jackson on that particular night asked him if he ever fondled himself and offered to "do it for me."

"He said if men don't masturbate, they can get to a level where they might rape a girl or they can be in court more than an hour late because of a trip to an emergency room that with his lawyers described as a serious back problem caused by a fall. The judge threatened to have him arrested and he didn't come to court, but vacated the arrest warrant after Jackson arrived."

Under questioning by District

Attorney Tom Sneddon, the boy began his second day on the stand Thursday by describing how he and Jackson drank alcohol and looked at sex magazines together.

The boy said Jackson molested him twice, both times in the singer's bedroom. He said they both wore pairs of Jackson's pajamas.

The second incident occurred "about a day after" the first encounter, he said. In the second instance, he resisted an attempt by Jackson to place the boy's hand on Jackson's genitals.

The accuser's testimony differed from his 14-year-old brother's description of two molestation incidents, and it was unclear if they were talking about the same alleged incidents.

Defense attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. accused the witness of making up the story.

"After you met with an attorney, you came up with a story that the top 10 after slipping in No. 1 last year," said Wal-Mart Stores Inc.'s S. Robson Walton.

"No, I never told him about anything," the boy said, referring to the lawyer.

The court planned to handle pending motions Friday and resume testimony Monday.

## Pajama-clad Leno mines trial for jokes

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — The judge in the Michael Jackson trial delivered the punch line Friday that Jay Leno has been wanting to hear: The comedian is allowed to crack jokes at Jackson's expense.

Judge Rodney S. Melville made his ruling about Leno as he clarified a gag order preventing everyone involved in the case from discussing it. Leno has been subpoenaed to testify at the trial, and the comedian feared that the order would apply to his monologues on "The Tonight Show."

"I am not attempting to prevent anybody from making a living in the normal way that they make their living," the judge ruled, adding that Leno may not talk about the specific things to which he is a witness.

Before the ruling, Leno was finding creative ways to make jokes about Jackson without opening his mouth.

After arriving "late" for the taping of Thursday's "Tonight Show," Leno stepped out of a black limousine wearing SpongeBob SquarePants pajamas and accompanied by several bodyguards. One of the bodyguards held an open umbrella over Leno's head as the comedian remained silent when asked why he was late. (Earlier in the day, Jackson had arrived late to court wearing pajama bottoms and a T-shirt under a coat.)

Then, as he has in recent days, he called on another comedian, Drew Carey, to handle that night's Jackson story.

Leno may be called to testify about having contact with Jackson's accuser or his mother. The defense contends the family tried to kill Leno and others out of money.

Jay Leno still can make jokes about Michael Jackson himself, a judge ruled on Friday.

AP

# Buffett closes gap, but Gates still tops list of billionaires

BY MADLEN READ  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Thanks to a surge in demand for steel, the Internet and Scandinavian sofas, there are some new names among the very richest of the world's billionaires.

Indian steel mogul Lakshmi Mittal, American television magnate Carlos Slim Helu and Ikea founder Ingvar Kamprad of Sweden knocked several Wal-Mart founders down a few notches on Forbes magazine's 2005 rankings of the world's billionaires.

The billionaires are richer and more numerous for the second straight year, but the No. 1 spot is unchanged — Microsoft Corp. founder Bill Gates led the list for the eleventh year in a row with a net worth of \$46.5 billion, slightly less than his \$46.6 billion last year.

Investor Warren Buffett held a close second with \$44 billion, up from \$42.9 billion in 2004.

Mittal — the biggest global gainers after quadrupling his net worth by \$8 billion since last year — climbed 59 rungs from last year to No. 3 in 2005.

Helu came in fourth, up from No. 17 in 2004; Saudi Arabian investor Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Al Saud ranked No. 5; and Ikea's Kamprad rose to No. 6 from No.

13 last year. Rounding out the top 10 were Microsoft's Paul Allen, German supermarket company owner Karl Albrecht, Oracle Corp.'s Lawrence Ellison — returning to the top 10 after slipping in No. 11 last year — and Wal-Mart Stores Inc.'s S. Robson Walton.

Four other billionaires took spots 11 through 13, with Alice and Helen Walton once again sharing the title of "richest woman in the world" with \$18 billion each. The five family members of the late Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton are together worth over \$90 billion.

The number of billionaires grew to a record 691 from 587 last year, and their total net worth by \$300 billion to \$2.2 trillion.

A confluence of factors contributed to the increase, said Forbes associate editor Luisa Kroll, including positive performance by many stock markets around the world — for example, in Ukraine

and Iceland, countries that debuted on the list along with Kazakhstan and Poland — and the falling dollar.

Between February 2004 and February 2005, the 12-nation euro rose about 4 percent against the dollar, while the British pound rose about 3 percent versus the U.S. currency.

"If you were a euro-based billionaire, you could've done nothing and seen a 20 percent increase" over the past two years, Kroll said.

One of this year's new billionaires — and one of the list's 68 women, up from 53 last year — was Martha Stewart, whose wealth swelled to \$1 billion despite her conviction for lying about a stock sale and ensuing five-month prison stint.

Jail time was harder on the fortune of Russia's embattled Yukos oil company chief Mikhail Khodorkovsky, this year's biggest dollar loss after seeing an 85 percent tumble from \$15 billion to \$2.2 billion.

## The world's richest

For the 11th year in a row, Microsoft founder Bill Gates topped Forbes magazine's list of the world's billionaires.

### Forbes top five

- 1. William Gates III**  
Wash., 49 years old  
Net worth: \$46.5 billion  
Microsoft founder
- 2. Warren Buffett**  
Nebr., 74  
\$44 billion  
Investor
- 3. Lakshmi Mittal**  
India, 54  
\$25 billion  
Steel mogul
- 4. Carlos Slim Helu**  
Mexico, 65  
\$23 billion  
Telecom titan
- 5. Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Al Saud**  
Saudi Arabia, 48  
\$23.7 billion  
Investor

SOURCE: Forbes

Among the big winners were Google Inc.'s Sergey Brin and Larry Page, who made their first appearance last year with \$1 billion each. The tech moguls jumped nearly 500 spots this year to No. 55, their net worth multiplying to \$7.2 billion after the company's initial public offering in August.

Allen

Stewart







# Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



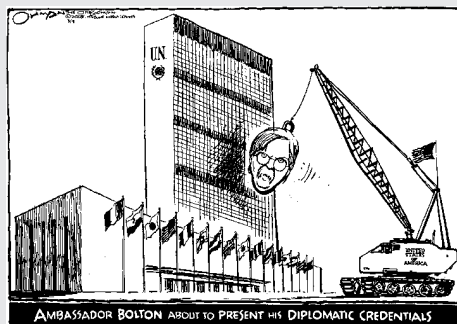
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## Sickening swim

**MI** ROYAL OAK — More than 50 people were taken to a hospital after high levels of carbon monoxide were detected at a high school pool during swimming lessons, police said.

The children and adults fell ill inside Doner's High School in suburban Detroit. Doctors detected 35 people who complained of headaches, nausea and vomiting. Others left before being examined.

Five people were placed under increased pressure in the hospital's hyperbaric chamber to help them better absorb oxygen into their blood, said Dr. Frank McGeorge, director of emergency medicine at William Beaumont Hospital. They were released later in the day.

Royal Oak police Sgt. Barry Gale said tests had found high levels of carbon monoxide, which were believed to be caused by a malfunctioning furnace. The incident was still under investigation.

## Indians fight dump

**NV** LAS VEGAS — An American Indian tribe filed a federal lawsuit aimed at stopping the government from building a national nuclear waste dump on ancestral land in Nevada.

Members of the Western Shoshone National Council cited a 19th-century treaty with the federal government that they said gives the tribe the right to stop the nuclear repository from being built at Yucca Mountain.

"Mother Earth is sacred to the Shoshone and is not to be hurt by us," Western Shoshone Chief Raymond Yowell said outside court.

Nevada also is fighting the nuclear dump. It won a partial victory in a case last July that said the Energy Department's plan did not go far enough to protect people from potential radiation.

The department plans to entomb 77,000 tons of highly radioactive commercial, industrial and military waste at Yucca Mountain, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

## Cigarette smuggling

**VA** ROANOKE — Seven Californians who smuggled \$8.9 million worth of cheap Virginia cigarettes to the West Coast are scheduled to be sentenced in June.

The seven pleas capped a four-year investigation involving local and federal officials, as well as agents from both states.

U.S. Attorney John Brownlee said leaders of the smuggling operation paid about \$8.9 million for more than 108 million cigarettes and had their accomplices truck them to California, where they were resold. The cigarettes had a retail value of more than \$18.5 million.

The scheme allowed the men to escape payment of more than \$4.7 million in California cigarette taxes. When the smuggling started, Virginia was taxing cigarettes at 2.5 cents a pack while California was assessing strokes at 87 cents a pack, said Sharon Burnham, an assistant U.S. attorney who prosecuted the case.

## Man guilty in slashing

**PA** ALLENTOWN — A man accused of slashing a woman's throat and stabbing her after the two used drugs at a motel was convicted of attempted homicide.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Michael Leon Haley Sr., 48, of Allentown, was also found guilty of aggravated assault, reckless endangerment, making terroristic threats, and of theft for stealing a car after the incident.

Lisa Krepich, 33, said she and Haley were using drugs in the Lehigh Motor Inn in Upper Macungie Township on April 16 when he sliced her throat from ear to ear and repeatedly stabbed her. She said she ran from the room and collapsed.

Krepich said she had met Haley just hours earlier and had taken him to a house to get drugs before going with him to the motel.

## Assisted suicide botched

**OR** PORTLAND — A terminally ill cancer patient who tried to end his life with drugs prescribed under Oregon's assisted-suicide law awoke three days later, alert and talkative, his wife said.

David Prueitt, who had lung cancer, took what was believed to be a fatal dose of a barbiturate prescribed by his doctor in January.

He fell into a coma within minutes, but woke up three days later, said his wife, Lynda Romig Prueitt.

Prueitt's wife told The Oregonian newspaper that he asked, "Why am I not dead?"

Prueitt, 42, lived for two more weeks before dying of natural causes at his Estacada home.

The state Department of Human Services will turn the case over to



## Cowboy cleanup

Ralph Reinhardt of Voecker Construction does a last-minute cleanup on the face of a huge cowboy sign on the grounds of the Travis County Expo Center in Austin, Texas.

the Board of Medical Examiners or state Board of Pharmacy to determine if the procedure or drugs were faulty, said Dr. Katrina Hedberg, assistant state epidemiologist.

## Parties feuding

**MT** HELENA — Leading Republicans in the Legislature fumed after meeting with Democratic Gov. Brian Schweitzer, who criticized them for opposing some of his key legislation, then left without giving them a chance to speak. House Republican Leader Roy Brown said he and others went to the governor's office for "a legitimate discussion about issues" and ended up listening to "a show." Schweitzer said later he thought he gave Republicans opportunity to comment.

## Bad morning wake-up

**FL** MIAMI — Instead of an early-bird customer, a cafeteria worker discovered a live grenade on a counter where people typically order coffee and doughnuts.

The Opportunity Cafeteria had just opened about 6:30 a.m. when the unidentified worker found the grenade on one corner of the counter. Police officers were summoned and determined that the grenade was active, with its pin still in place.

The department's bomb squad took the grenade to a secure location and detonated it, according to a statement from the police department. No one was injured and there was no damage to any structures.

Investigators were trying Tuesday to determine how the grenade got there. No other devices were found at the cafeteria.

Police did not immediately return a call seeking additional information.

## Heartland losing kids

**ND** BISMARCK — Tony Nieman is going to miss the shrieks and laughter coming from the school playground.

Starting this fall, the 25 elementary-age children will go somewhere else to learn their ABCs. There just aren't enough of them to keep the school open.

The town of Calvin, where Nieman is mayor, exemplifies what is happening all across North Dakota: Young adults and young families with children are moving away to escape the harsh farm economy.

New census figures show North Dakota is losing more children than any other state.

"What we're seeing is a tremendous loss of youth," said Richard Rathge, director of the State Data Center. "Young adults and young families are leaving and taking their children with them."

From 2000 to 2004, North Dakota's population of children ages 5 to 17 dropped about 14 percent and the number of newborns dropped about 8 percent, the Census Bureau said in a report being released Thursday. The number of newborns in one year alone, 2003 to 2004, dropped 15 percent — and the highest percentage in the nation.

But Rathge said North Dakota's birth rate has declined nearly every year since 1982. Fargo, the state's largest city, has seen a 1.5 percent growth in young people over the past few years, but most of them are not starting families, he said.



## A berry good cause

Jimmy Webb, a graduate student majoring in horticulture at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences in Gainesville, Fla., displays strawberries that are being sold to raise funds for the institute's student organization. The berries were donated to the student group by growers in Plant City, Fla.



## Seeking seashells and sun

Nackie Karcher hunts for seashells on Miami Beach, Fla., near 12th Street after a cold front brought rain and wind to the area.



## You quack me up!

Four-year-olds, from left, Isabela Martinez-Vazquez, Chloe Craft, and Rileigh Buchanan from the St. John's Child Development Center in Anderson, S.C., watch a duckling waddle around a dish of food. The children had a difficult time naming the waddling duck, which explains its new name: Sallymadelinequackquack.



**Swinging in Las Vegas** Employees and members of the media try out "Insanity," a new ride that dangles riders 1,149 feet over the Las Vegas Boulevard strip over the side of the Stratosphere Tower in Las Vegas.



**Taking his licks** A squirrel in a tree on Donham Plaza in Middletown, Ohio, cleans up the leftover contents of a plastic spoon.



**Spring attraction** Cliff Buza walks among poppies along Stratumountain Road in El Paso, Texas. The Mexican gold poppies that bloom on the lower slopes of the Franklin Mountains in the northeast part of the city draw a large number of visitors.

## TV contract questioned

**NV** CARSON CITY — A state senator is defending her \$3,000-a-month contract to consult with a television station on news content, including issues in the Legislature.

Sen. Barbara Cegavske, R-Las Vegas, said during a joint budget committee hearing that she works for Sunbelt Communications, which owns KVBC of Las Vegas. She said she has worked with the station about a year and helps with stories about education, health care and, sometimes, the Nevada Legislature.

"I'm a consultant," she told the Las Vegas Sun. "They'll call me about different issues, ask me questions about health or education issues."

Al Tompkins, a television consultant and faculty member at the Poynter Institute, a journalism think tank, said he had never heard of a legislator contracting with a news outlet while in office.

"Can you imagine a newspaper employing a member of Congress?" he asked.

Cegavske said she disclosed the relationship several times during interim finance committee hearings before the legislative session, and ran the idea past her own attorney.

## Thieves take cane, purse

**NY** BREWSTER — A 42-year-old woman and her two sons were arrested, accused of robbing an elderly woman of her purse and cane in the parking lot of a supermarket, State Police said.

Susan Blaney, Stephen Blaney, 22, and Michael Blaney, 23, drove up to woman and one son stole her cane and purse as she was making her way to her car, Investigator Paul Hasselmann said.

The Blaneys struck a parked car and tried to run down a pedestrian as they fled, authorities said. Their vehicle was spotted later in Kent and they were arrested.

The Blaneys were each charged with second-degree robbery and two counts each of first-degree reckless endangerment, police said.

## Doubling up on blood

**PA** HOWARD — A blood drive in Centre County used new technology to boost the supply as the number of blood donors nationally continues to decline.

The new "double red cell" collection requires donors to give twice as much blood. A device separates red blood cells, plasma and platelets — keeping only the blood cells and sending the plasma and platelets back into the donor.

The result: Two pints of red blood cells, double that of a traditional blood draw. The procedure will help increase the stockpile of available blood when blood reserves are critically low, said Steve Campbell of the Red Cross.

## Rampage ends in death

**TX** HOUSTON — A man who wounded two people and attempted three carjackings was shot and killed by police after taking a hostage and shooting at that man, Houston police said.

It began when the gunman was caught burglarizing an apartment, police said. A maintenance man who confronted him was shot in the side, said police.

The gunman then tried to take a man's car at a red light. The driver grabbed his keys and abandoned the truck, leaving the gunman.

The gunman then ran into Action Electronics where he tried to carjack the owner, police said. The owner was shot in the leg.

The gunman ran into a neighborhood, where he found a man in a truck. The gunman took that man hostage, police said. Ignoring commands to drop his weapon, the gunman began shooting at his hostage, police said. The gunman was then shot and killed by the officer.

## Woman killed by dogs

**VA** PARTLOW — An 83-year-old woman was attacked in her yard by a pack of pit bulls and died of her injuries en route to the hospital, police said.

One dog was killed by sheriff's deputies, one was captured and the third remained on the loose after the attack on Dorothy Sullivan, who was found by her daughter.

Investigators believe the dogs have two owners, and one has been located. While no charges have been filed, the owners could possibly be accused of involuntary manslaughter, he said.

## Tour boats seized

**HA** HONOLULU — Two tour boats owned by Dream Cruises were seized by the U.S. Marshals Service because the company was in default of a \$1.4 million mortgage on the vessels, according to officials and court documents.

The American Dream in Kewalo Basin and its sister ship, the Kona Dream in Kona, won't be allowed to operate until court proceedings are completed, a spokesman for the service said.

Dream Cruises President Michael Watson acknowledged being a couple months late on payments, but said he was in discussions with the lender for a new payment plan.

## Conviction overturned

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court tossed out the conviction of a death row inmate because prosecutors knowingly lied about a deal that had been struck with a key witness in the case.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals cleared the way for a new trial for Blufford Hayes Jr., who was convicted in 1981 of murdering a Stockton hotel manager and sentenced to death for first-degree murder, burglary and robbery.

The key witness, A.J. James, said Hayes confided to him shortly after the murder that he had "offed" Vinod "Pete" Patel. James also helped Hayes steal several cartons of cigarettes from the hotel lobby.

James was the only witness who could corroborate the burglary charge — adding the "special circumstances" needed to make it a death penalty case.

Court papers show the prosecutor negotiated a deal with James' attorney to grant him immunity in the murder and to drop all other pending felony charges.

The two also agreed to hide the deal from the judge and jury — and from James as well, so he did not perjure himself on the witness stand if asked whether he'd been given any special treatment in exchange for his testimony.

Stories and photos from wire services



# **AFRTS Television Schedule**

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFRTS's Web site at <http://myfn.odmmedia.com/di/>

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2005

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Static Shock	(11) Movie *** "Wild Scout" (1985, Comedy) Anthony Michael Hall, Kelly LeBrock, Ian Mitchell-Smith	Danny Phantom Drake & Josh Unfabulous "The Party Switched"	Access Hollywood Headline News The O'Reilly Factor	Hardball With Chris Matthews The O'Reilly Factor	NBA Basketball Houston Rockets at Phoenix Suns, from America West Arena in Phoenix, (Taped)	Clean House	Access Hollywood
9:30 Teen Titans "Secrets"		Radio Free Roscoe	Meet My Folks "The Dapper Part 1 of 2"	Dateline NBC	College Basketball ACC Tournament Quarterfinal - Duke vs. Miami or Virginia, from the Washington, D.C. (Live)	BBQ With Bobby Flay	Headline News
10:30 Power Rangers Dino Thunder		Survivor: Palau	Headline News	CNN Saturday Morning	College Basketball ACC Tournament Quarterfinal - Duke vs. Miami or Virginia, from the Washington, D.C. (Live)	Jackie Collins Presents	According to Jim
11:00 Dragon Ball GT	Movie *** "She's All That" (1999, Comedy) Freddie Prinze Jr., Rachel Leigh Cook	Access Hollywood	Headline News	Economy Watch	SportsCenter	101 Most Unforgettable SNL Moments	Half & Half
11:30 Justice League		Headline News	Headline News	CNN Saturday Morning Open House	College Basketball ACC Tournament Quarterfinal - Duke vs. Miami or Virginia, from the Washington, D.C. (Live)	Biography "Charles Dickens"	Law & Order "Coming Down Heart"
12:00 Teen Kids News (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Austin City Limits "John Fogerty" / Musicians John Fogerty	Headline News
12:30 Cyberchase (E)	(24) Movie *** "A Knight's Tale" (2001, Adventure) Heath Ledger, Mark Addy, A peasant who is brought to life at putting goal.	Headline News	Headline News	CNN Saturday Morning Open House	College GameDay	Star Trek Voyager "Tattoo"	Saturday Night Live
13:00 Trading Space Boy-Girl		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
13:30 Strange Days-Bloke House		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
14:00 Planet's Funniest Animals		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
14:30 Wild America		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
15:00 Discover Kids Ultimate Guide to the Awesome	(25) Movie *** "The Princess Bride" (1984) Jean Frenco, Gary Oldman, A hit man takes an orphan girl under his wing.	Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
16:00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys "Headless Hearts"		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
17:00 Doug "Doug Grows Up" (E)	Movie *** "Mystery" (1994) James Caan, Kelly Bates, A psychotic hit holds an injured novelist captive.	Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
17:30 The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
18:00 The Fairly OddParents	Movie *** "Secondhand Lions" (2003) Michael Caine, A teen hears fantastic tales about his great-uncles.	Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
18:30 Rugrats		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
19:00 Movie "Stuck in the Suburbs" (2004, Comedy-Drama) Danielle Pandabes, Brenda Song		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
19:30 The Fairly OddParents		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
20:00 Movie "The Luck of the Irish" (2001, Fantasy) Ryan Reynolds, Alessi Lopez		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
21:00 American Idol		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
22:30 American Idol		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
23:00 American Idol		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
23:30 American Idol		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
00:00 American Idol		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
00:30 American Idol		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
1:00 The Fairly OddParents		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
1:30 Rugrats		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
2:00 Movie "Stuck in the Suburbs" (2004, Comedy-Drama) Danielle Pandabes, Brenda Song		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
2:30 Movie "The Luck of the Irish" (2001, Fantasy) Ryan Reynolds, Alessi Lopez		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
3:00 Movie "The Luck of the Irish" (2001, Fantasy) Ryan Reynolds, Alessi Lopez		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
4:00 Movie "The Luck of the Irish" (2001, Fantasy) Ryan Reynolds, Alessi Lopez		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
4:30 Sesame Street (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
5:00 Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
6:00 Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
7:00 Synthesizer & Twenty		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
7:30 Scooby Doo		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
8:00 The Magic School Bus (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
8:30 The Jetsons		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
9:00 House of Mouse		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
9:30 Animaniacs Itchy Dick		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
10:00 Ed, Edd & Eddy		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
10:30 Fillmore "Test of the Testes"		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
11:00 A Walk in Your Shoes		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
11:30 Planet's Funniest Animals		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
12:00 NBA Inside Stuff		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
12:30 Happy Days		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
13:00 Movie *** "The Thirteenth Year" (1999, Fantasy) Chad Stenbeck, Justin Jon Ross		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
14:00 The Fairly OddParents		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
14:30 Movie "Can't We Dance?" (1996, Comedy) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Pamela Anderson		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
15:00 Voice of Malcolm McDowell		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
15:30 Movie "The Luck of the Irish" (2001, Fantasy) Ryan Reynolds, Alessi Lopez		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
16:00 Doug (E)		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
17:00 The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
17:30 Rugrats Spike is in trouble		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
18:00 The Jeff Corwin Experience		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
18:30 The American's Funniest Home Videos		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
19:30 Movie "I Am Sam" (2001, Drama) Sean Penn, Michelle Pfeiffer, Dakota Fanning, A mentally challenged man seeks his shortchanged teen.		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
20:00 Everwood "For Every Action"		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
20:30 Jean of Arcadia "Only Con"		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
21:30 The Cosby Show		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
22:00 Home Improvement		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
22:30 Touched by an Angel "Living the Rest of My Life"		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.
23:30 Touched by an Angel "Living the Rest of My Life"		Headline News	Headline News	Forbes	College GameDay	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kidz'n It Latest in music and trends.

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## FACES

# Outragious for all ages

## Actor Alan Cumming enjoys roles that appeal to lighter side

BY NANCY MILLS  
New York Daily News

### HOLLYWOOD

**L**ater this month, as befits an international star of stage and screen, Alan Cumming will launch his own fragrance. Cumming.

"Originally it was for men," he says, "but women love it. So I'm saying it's beyond gender."

It's also beyond the age of the target audience for "Son of the Mask," a sort of prequel

to Jim Carrey's 1994 "The Mask." Released in the States on Feb. 18, the film brought in about \$16 million in its first three weeks.

Cumming plays Loki, the Norse God of Mischief, who created the

mask and now will go to any length — and any disguise — to get it back. No costume or hair style is too demeaning, if it gets a laugh.

"Sometimes people get really snuffy about the films you choose if you've done more dramatic projects or you're classically trained," says Cumming, who studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Dance.

"But I love a film where I get squished by two Dumpsters or I fly through the air."

The outrageous Cumming has a career that goes both ways. His heavyweight credits include "Cabaret," his Tony Award-winning revival in 1998, and heavy dramas such as "Eyes Wide Shut" (1999).

Then there's the more mainstream "Enigma" (opposite Gwyneth Paltrow), "X2" and TV versions of "Annie" and "The Goodbye Girl." Kids flock to him because of "Spy Kids," "The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas" and "Black Beauty."

"What I really liked about 'Son of the Mask' was the homage to Looney Tunes and 'One Froggy Evening,'" Cumming, 40, says. "Kids are more genuine. When they come up and want to talk to you, they don't have an agenda. It's more endearing and less piercing to your aura."

Cumming is "like a finely-tuned Rolls Royce," says "Son of the Mask" director Lawrence Guterman. "He exudes such confidence as he chews up the scenery."

He chews more scenery in "Reefer Madness," a musical airing on Showtime in April. In a parody of the 1936 anti-marijuana film, he plays the emcee-like Lecturer, President Roosevelt and Goat-Man.

"I thought it was a funny story," he says. "What our film is saying is that we're encouraged to be scared about certain things — in the movie it's marijuana, which is not very scary at all. But it takes up all your energy and you don't worry about the really important things that are going on."

After President Bush's re-election, Cumming thought about leaving America and New York, where he has lived since 1998 (and "Cabaret").

But he decided he had too many commitments here.

He's already at work on "Bam Bam and Celeste," in which he plays Margaret Cho's love interest. After that comes "X3," reprising his role as the shape shifter Nightcrawler.

Then there are more films to promote: "Mr. Ripley's Return," "Neverwas," "Ant Bully," "Eighteen," and "Wedding Photo," in which he plays a 1920s Minnesota farmer with 10 children.

Cumming enjoys toying with gender issues. He was married for eight years to Hilary Lyon, his *Orpheus* in "Hamlet." In 2002, he wrote a novel, "Tommy's Tale," about the wild life of a pansexual Londoner.

Currently, he speaks about having a boyfriend.

His fragrance's advertising campaign features postcards of Cumming doing homages to old fragrance ads.

"In some of them I'm naked," he says. "I sent the postcards to my mom, and she sent me an e-mail, saying ... 'I wasn't shocked because 40 years ago I saw you just as naked — but everything was a bit smaller.'"

## Jagger sex footage banned

A British judge banned the broadcast of video footage showing Elizabeth Jagger engaging in "sexual activities" with her boyfriend in a nightclub.

Jagger, daughter of Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall, sought the injunction against John Darlington, manager of Kabaret's Prophecy Nightclub in London.

High Court Judge Roger Bell ruled Wednesday that Jagger, 20, and boyfriend Calum Best, son of former soccer star George Best, had a "legitimate expectation of privacy" when they engaged in sexual activities just inside the club's doors on Feb. 17. The couple were captured on a closed-circuit television camera that they had failed to notice.



Jagger

## R&B singer Levert indicted

A Cuyahoga County, Ohio, grand jury indicted Gerald Levert on assault charges in a confrontation with police during a traffic stop last month.

Earlier this month, prosecutor Anthony Jordan said there was no evidence the R&B singer caused serious physical harm to

patrolmen Ronald W. Ross and Daniel Lentz.

Levert, 38, was charged with drunken driving, impeding traffic, obstructing police business and resisting arrest.

On Tuesday, a grand jury indicted Levert on two charges of felonious assault and a charge of obstructing official business.

Police said Levert and a passenger in his car intervened when authorities stopped a friend of Levert's for speeding at 12:45 a.m. Feb. 25.

Levert is the son of Eddie Levert, a founding member of The O'Jays, a longtime R&B group. Gerald Levert became lead singer of the trio Levert in 1985. He began his solo recording career in 1991.



Gerald Levert

## Jackson's 'second life' after crash

Reggie Jackson feels he's on a "second life" after surviving a car crash last week in which his vehicle flipped over several times in Florida.

The Hall of Famer, a New York Yankees special adviser and spring training instructor, was treated at a hospital and released after his sport utility vehicle was struck from behind Friday night.

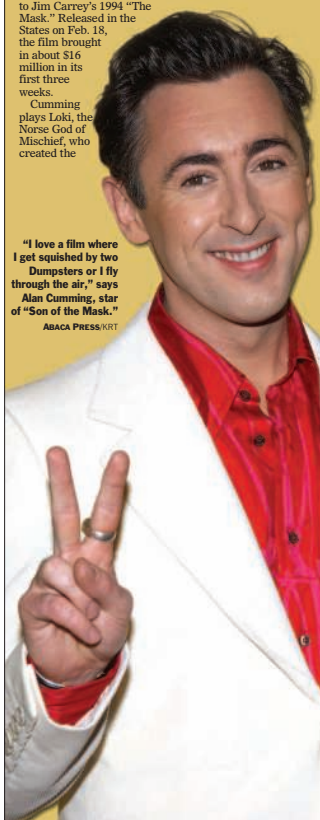
"You wonder why you survived," Jackson, 58, said Tuesday.

"I've struggled more emotionally. Now I have a second life. I've been blessed again. Thank God for having a hand on my shoulder. I just thank God I had my seat belt on."

Jackson is stiff and sore, has several cuts on his head and bruises caused by his seat belt. The driver of the other car, Miguel Angel Rivera, 34, of Temple Terrace, Fla., remained hospitalized Tuesday but is improving and will recover from his injuries, Tampa police spokesman Joe Durkin said.

"I feel a lot better," Jackson said. "Let me tell you, when the doctor and nurse told me I could go home and there were no internal injuries, I felt as good as when I hit the three homers," he added, a reference to his performance in Game 6 of the 1977 World Series.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



"I love a film where I get squished by two Dumpsters or I fly through the air," says Alan Cumming, star of "Son of the Mask."

ABACA PRESS/KRT



# Horoscope

The position of Mars indicates a flare of fireworks between people who are normally in agreement. The issue is power—who has it, really? The roles of the two people in the come with both limitations and perks. Suddenly, the perks may not seem to balance with the limitations, and adjustments are indicated. Don't rush to conclusions.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(March 12).** You quickly learn how to attract all you need. Financial success comes from wheeling and dealing and putting yourself out there. April marks the beginning of life minus a bad habit. Educational and civic pursuits connect you with friendships and romance this summer. June brings a change of location. Love signs are Sagittarius and Taurus.

## Holiday Mathis



## ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Smart thinking rules your day. You're so resourceful that you find uses for things you never thought you would use—like the Christmas present you received that just wasn't for you or the phone number of your ex.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

The theme is the kindness of strangers. You'll be the benefactor and the recipient of such considerations. And you'll feel a special kinship with that person who is full of intriguing things— you could use more of this influence.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Issues of equality arise between loved ones. You'll be feeling out the balance of power and realizing its delicacy. Is there nobility in loving someone who depends on you and solely needs your love?

## CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Your artistic side emerges as the hero of the day—others are honored by your grand portrayal of them through your art. Don't underestimate the value of yourself. Singles have hot dates tonight.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

You feel a little bit naughty. The day plays out like a spicy game of Truth or Dare. Aquarius and Gemini are

your allies. You'll be ecstatic with financial arrangements that involve a virgo.

## SCORPIO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You're mindful of other people's feelings, but issues arise that even you are not sure how to tactfully approach. Focus on you—find your inner peace. The answer is blowing in the breeze.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

The stars line up to enforce the belief that it's good to be you. Just sit down, and count the ways! The realization helps you complete your daily tasks with a flourish, as if to say, "Ain't life grand?"

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

You're the truth teller. You may need to point out the obvious to an oblivious individual, but this move will eventually make your life easier. Passing the blame, however, would only make you look bad.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

There's genius in imperfection. Something broken gives you a fantastic idea or produces a fortuitous meeting that wouldn't have happened otherwise. Some of you will receive start-up cash for your idea.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

When diplomacy is needed, you're as smooth as Bill Clinton. If you're single: A beautiful stranger adds spice to your life. If in a couple: Your strength is your ability to form your opinion instead of echoing a partner's views.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

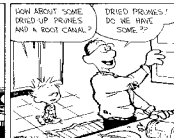
Depend on intuition when your affections are concerned. Get over a fear of being the "bad guy" and having a difficult conversation—avoiding that conversation only makes you the "bad guy."

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

An undecided issue could have you walking around in the daze of a quandary. Getting more opinions only confuses the matter. Don't worry: You cannot make a mistake and miss your fate. This fate is inextricably bound to you.

Creators Syndicate

## Calvin and Hobbes



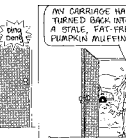
## Jump Start



## Zits



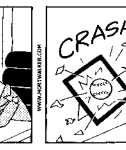
## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



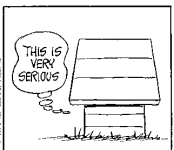
## Red and Rover



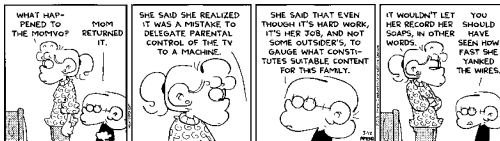
## Better or Worse



## Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



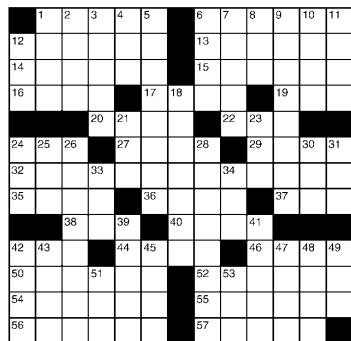
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Sew temporarily
- 6 Weak, in a way
- 12 Shrek's companion
- 13 Adjoining
- 14 Author Gormier
- 15 Decrease
- 16 Seed coat
- 17 Propagated
- 19 Took a meeting
- 20 Maltese money
- 22 — Paulo
- 24 Upsilon follower
- 27 Georgia city
- 29 — it out (come to blows)
- 32 They're "pieciful"
- 35 Faxed
- 36 Rani's wraparound
- 37 Pismire
- 38 Popeye's Olive
- 40 All-in-black rock fan
- 42 Listener
- 44 Texas sch.
- 46 Dumbfounded
- 50 Quick look
- 52 Swindle
- 54 Family subdivisions
- 55 Inquisitive
- 56 Large bird dog
- 57 Fits like matryoshka dolls
- 2 "... — can't get up!"
- 3 Dexterity
- 4 Pinchleaf card
- 5 Some are penciled in
- 6 Competent
- 7 Can't do without
- 8 Curvy letter
- 9 Montana city
- 10 Concept
- 11 Minimal change
- 12 "CSI" evidence
- 18 Rush wildly about
- 21 George's brother
- 23 Wood-shaping tool
- 24 Nightwear, for short
- 25 Waste not a moment
- 26 Uninformed
- 28 Certain hotel plan
- 30 "Jeopardy!" juggernaut Jennings
- 31 Superlative ending
- 33 Home for 1-Down
- 34 Teen's woe
- 39 Moolah
- 41 Uses another's password, maybe
- 42 Diner supply
- 43 Sheltered
- 45 Wardrobe malfunction
- 47 Teensiest part
- 48 Sea flock
- 49 Diploma datum (Abbr.)
- 51 Trawler equipment
- 53 Work with

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## Down

- 1 Papa porker

## 3-12 CRYPTOQUIP

L PCXXIPG FIC OLDNM ESKK  
 MNG XGHPV LV ENSHDG  
 IR S HIUGHF MNG  
 EIOOSVZGH-LV-MNLGR.  
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN YOU DECIDE TO PURCHASE YOUR OWN HORSE, YOU WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO PONY UP.  
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: U equals B



# 'Other woman' upset over rejection

**Dear Abby:** I am an independent VIP escort — 48 years old, although I look 10 years younger than my age. I have grown kids who don't know what I do.

One of my clients, a married doctor, was very kind to me. He confided that he and his wife hadn't made love in 10 years and were only living parallel lives. We enjoyed each other so much we started having dinner dates. When I told him I wanted to get out of the business, he offered to help.

He leased a beautiful apartment for me not far from his office and gave me a small job I could do from home until I found work. I then saw him exclusively. We discussed marriage, and I never really looked for work, assuming that we would be together.

After four months, I convinced him to call his wife and let her about our relationship, figuring she would be so angry she'd

divorce him. Now he says he won't support me anymore and won't see me, either. They are in counseling! I want to contact him. I know he wants me because we were so good together. But I'm afraid of rejection. What should I do?

— Castaway in Paterson, N.J.

**Dear Abby**



**Dear Castaway:** I have a short "to-do" list for you:

1. Wake up and smell the coffee. The doctor has made his choice, and it's not you.
2. Find a legitimate job so you won't have to hide from your kids, because, sister, you're on your own.

**Dear Abby:** All of

my friends have a special pet that sticks to them like glue. I'm talking about a "waiting-at-the-door-until-they-get-home-from-school" kind of pet.

I have two dogs and two cats. Buttons and Bamboo are my two dogs, and Jasmine and Midnight

are my two cats.

Buttons likes my grandfather; Bamboo likes my mom, and my cats can't come inside.

I asked my parents if I could have another pet, a pet of my own that would stick only by MY side. They looked at each other and said, "OK, if you get rid of the ones you have." But I love all of them, Abby. I can't bear to give any of them away. What should I do?

— Lonely Girl in Fort Smith

**Dear Lonely Girl:** Instead of getting yet another pet, it's time for you to take a more active part in the lives of the ones you already have. Make it your job to help them. When you return from school, make some special time to take the dogs out, exercise them and play with them.

Once it becomes routine, they'll look forward to their special time and you'll be excited when you get home.

Letters for this column — with your name and home number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles 44, California 90069. Readers can e-mail at [http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby](mailto:http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby) Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**VENOL**

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**BUMIE**

**FLUWEE**

**EMVOIT**

www.jumble.com

**A:**

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TOXIN FOYER MORBID ENOUGH  
Answer: When the judge presided over the long trial, he — FOUND IT 'TRYING'

# Allow family to get past grief

**Dear Annie:** Two years ago, my husband passed away very suddenly at the age of 38. While he was in the hospital, his family verbally attacked me regarding where he should be buried. They thought he should be with them, in his hometown, 2,500 miles away from me and our three young children.

I decided to have him cremated and planned to give his parents some of his ashes. Later, however, I thought it would be too confusing for our children, having Daddy in two different states, so ultimately, I kept his ashes with me. I figured I would reconsider sharing his ashes when the children are older.

My husband's family was so upset, they left before the funeral service without saying goodbye. We didn't hear from any of them until his mom called months later, saying mean and hurtful things.

I feel so sad for our children. They not only lost their father,

**Annie's Mailbox**



but his whole family, too. They abandoned us when we really needed their support.

I know everyone grieves differently, but I am having a hard time understanding how my in-laws could cut their grandchildren out of their lives. They still acknowledge special occasions, and we are very appreciative, but that's it.

**Dear Widow:** Try to understand this from your in-laws' point of view and imagine the devastation of losing a child. The fact that their son was an adult does not diminish the pain and grief. We don't expect you to forget, but please forgive them for their unkind words. They are still hurting. Maintain whatever contact is comfortable. Send occasional photographs of the children, perhaps with a short note letting them know how the kids are doing. We hope, with the passage of time, that the wounds will heal and they will become closer.

**Dear Annie:** Could you please print this, so the movie and television industry will consider putting closed captioning on all of their productions? There are many, many people who are hearing impaired. Going to a movie theater is no pleasure when we have no idea what people are saying. I know they play the sound very loud, but that doesn't help because the background noise overwhelms the dialogue.

Those TV programs that have captioning are truly appreciated, and I don't bother tuning in to those that don't. Help me get this message across.

— Wisconsin Reader

**Dear Wisconsin:** As the Boomers age, hearing loss will become more common. It would be sensible for the industry to pay close attention to your letter.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [annie@mailbox@comcast.net](mailto:annie@mailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



3-12

©2005 Bill Keane, Inc. Drawn by King Features Syndicate. www.familycircus.com

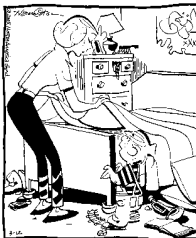
"A real one, or just somebody wearing a funny suit and a painted face?"

## GRAFFITI

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES IS MOSTLY DONE BY BILL COLLECTORS

MBA 3/12

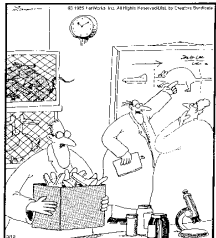
Dennis the Menace



"MISSED WILSON SAYS SHE'S PUSHIN' SEVENTY. DOES THAT MEAN I'M PUSHIN' SIX?"

© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Feb. 27, 1907: The duck-billed platypus is invented.

Non Sequitur



BOB: LEARNIN' THAT WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW CAN KILL YOU









## SCOREBOARD

## AFN TV &amp; Radio

## Saturday

**AFN-Sports, 8 a.m.-NBA:** Houston at Phoenix (radio).

**AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.:** College basketball: Atlantic Coast Conference tournament quarterfinal (radio).

**AFN-Sports, 2 p.m.:** College basketball: Big Ten Conference championship game.

**AFN-Pacific, 5:30 p.m.:** College basketball: America East Conference championship game.

**AFN-Atlantic, 6 p.m.:** College basketball: Mid-American Conference championship game.

**AFN-Pacific and Radio, 7:30 p.m.:** College basketball: Atlantic Coast Conference semifinal doubleheader.

**AFN-Sports, 7:45 p.m.:** College basketball: Big Ten conference tournament semifinal.

**AFN-Atlantic, 8 p.m.:** College basketball: Big Ten conference tournament semifinal doubleheader.

## Sunday

**AFN-Sports, midnight:** College basketball: Pac-10 Conference championship game.

**AFN-Pacific and Radio, midnight:** College basketball: Atlantic 10 Conference championship game.

**AFN-Sports and Radio, 2 a.m.:** College basketball: Big East conference championship game.

**AFN-Sports, 6 a.m.:** College basketball: Big West conference championship game.

**AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.:** Auto racing: Indy Tech Series: San Jose 200 (radio).

**AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.:** College basketball: Western Athletic conference championship game (radio).

**AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.-Golf:** Florida Classic, 36-hole (radio).

**AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.:** Motor racing: Grand National: Charlotte 200 (radio).

**AFN-Atlantic, 7 p.m.:** College basketball: Southeastern Conference championship game.

**AFN-Sports and Radio, 7 p.m.:** College basketball: Atlantic Coast Conference championship game.

**AFN-Pacific, 8 p.m.:** Auto racing: Nextel Cup: Phoenix 500 (radio).

**AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.:** College basketball: Big XII Conference championship game.

**AFN-Pacific, 9 p.m.:** College basketball: Big XII Conference championship game.

**AFN-Sports, 11 p.m.:** College basketball: NCAA Women's Tournament Selection Show.

All times are Central European Time; all times are subject to change. Visit [www.afn.net](http://www.afn.net) for more information.

## Baseball

## Spring training league

AMERICAN LEAGUE			
	W	L	Pct.
Cleveland	6	2	.750
Toronto	5	2	.714
Los Angeles	5	3	.667
Baltimore	4	3	.571
Boston	4	3	.571
Tampa Bay	4	3	.571
Texas	4	4	.500
Detroit	3	3	.500
Chicago	4	6	.400
Kansas City	3	5	.375
Minnesota	3	6	.333
Oakland	3	6	.333
New York	5	5	.286
Seattle	1	7	.125

# Schilling to attend congressional hearing

BY RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Curt Schilling plans to attend next week's congressional hearing on steroid use in baseball, becoming the first current player to agree to testify before the panel.

Speaking at Boston's spring training camp in Fort Myers, Fla., the Red Sox ace said Friday that he has "nothing" to offer the panel.

"I'm still real confused as to why I was put in this group and why there are others players that aren't in this group," Schilling said.

The commissioner's office has said it will fight the subpoenas, which also were issued to Jason Giambi, Sammy Sosa, Frank Thomas and Rafael Palmeiro. Former players Jose Canseco and Mark McGwire also were summoned for the March 17 hearing of House Government Reform Committee along with three management officials and union head Donald Fehr.

Canseco asked Thursday for immunity if he will testify fully before the committee, but a spokesman for the lawmaker who will chair the proceeding offered no promises.

Another House panel on Thursday held the first of what it said could be a series of hearings on the subject, with several congressmen chastising baseball for what one called its "extremely weak" drug-testing program. The subcommittee chairman said all major U.S. sports leagues should work toward uniform steroid penalties.

## Canseco seeking immunity for testimony



Canseco

Schilling

"I don't think it's grandstanding," New York Yankees player representative Mike Mussina said. "I think in light of what's happened the last year or so maybe, people are looking for some answers. The public wants to get some answers, so they're trying to find some answers."

Canseco, the 1988 AL MVP, has admitted using performance-enhancing drugs and his best-selling book accuses several stars of steroid use.

"We've asked for immunity," said Canseco's lawyer, Robert Saunooke. "We hope they give it to us. We're still going to show up even if we have no immunity and offer whatever testimony we can that does not expose Jose to legal liability."

David Marin, a spokesman for committee chairman Tom Davis, said: "At this point, there are no plans to offer immunity to any witness."

Henry Waxman, the committee's ranking Democrat, said he would not be opposed to immunity. He sees the hearing as a chance to find out about the role of steroids in the majors and to address the effect on young athletes, not to expose whether individual players used the drugs.

"With all the reports we've had in the past decade—Major League Baseball has refused to investigate," Waxman said. "Now with the great interest in the subject because of Jose Canseco's book, and people who said they did and did not use steroids, it's brought things to a head."

Players were in the process of hiring lawyers and deciding whether to act jointly or individually.

McGwire's spokesman, Marc Altieri, said his client hasn't decided whether to appear. Thomas, at spring training in Arizona, said: "If it happens, I'll go. It's not a problem."

Also summoned were union head Donald Fehr, baseball executive vice presidents Rob Manfred and Sandy Alderson, and San Diego General Manager Kevin Towers. Fehr and Manfred will appear; Towers said Thursday he wasn't sure.

On Wednesday, baseball lawyer Stanley Brand said the committee had no jurisdiction and was interfering with a San Francisco federal grand jury investigation involving steroids. Davis and Waxman re-

sponded Thursday, sending Brand a letter stating "your legal analysis is flawed.... Any failure to comply with the committee's subpoenas would be unwise and irresponsible."

No players were invited to Thursday's Energy and Commerce Committee hearing, where chairman Joe Barton said his panel might issue subpoenas for commissioners of the major sports leagues.

Barton said use of performance-enhancing drugs is tainting sports, noting that as San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds pursues the career home run record there are questions about whether he's been aided by steroids.

Waxman said Bonds, who wouldn't comment Thursday, wasn't among the players asked to appear because "the feeling was that if he were invited, all the attention would go to Barry Bonds and would distract from the overall mission of the hearing."

In Fort Myers, six to 12 players on the World Series champion Boston Red Sox were tested for steroids Thursday. Players from several other teams already have been tested under the tougher program baseball and players agreed to in January under pressure from Congress. The agreement, which has not been finalized, calls for 10-day suspensions for first-time offenders.

AP sports writers Howard Kendrick in Washington, Mike Fitzpatrick in Tampa, Fla., Janie McCauley in Scottsdale, Ariz., Howard Ullman in Fort Myers, Fla., and Bernie Wilson in San Diego contributed to this report.

## Cubs' Prior makes first start of spring

The Associated Press

Mark Prior gave the Cubs some good news on the day ace Kerry Wood went back to Chicago to wear his right shoulder examined.

The Cincinnati Reds and St. Louis Cardinals were all smiles after stars Ken Griffey Jr. and Larry Walker took their first spring swings in spring training games.

Prior, slated to be the Cubs' No. 2 starter behind Wood, gave up a run and four hits in three innings in a 5-3 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Thursday.

Wood, meanwhile, returned to Chicago for tests on his pitching shoulder. A day earlier, he cut short his start after feeling tightness. Wood had an MRI before heading home.

"He's such a valuable commodity," Cubs manager Dusty Baker said.

Wood missed two months last season because of tendinitis in his right triceps. He was sidelined for the 1999 season after elbow ligament replacement surgery.

"After what happened last year, this is just precautionary," Baker said. "It was just a matter of him going back and seeing our team doctor. Right now, it's nothing. We just decided to do this for a precautionary measure."

The Cubs are being cautious with Prior this spring because last season he didn't pitch until

**Chicago Cubs starter Mark Prior delivers in the first inning against the Seattle Mariners on Thursday.**

June 4. A month after he returned from the right Achilles' tendinitis injury, Prior missed a start in July with discomfort in his pitching elbow.

Prior didn't have any nagging thoughts about getting injured this season.

"Sometimes things creep up, but you can't worry about it," he said. "You definitely don't want to see anybody get hurt. You want to see the best guys out there, you want to play the best and you want to be at your best."

At Sarasota, Fla., Griffey hit a sharp liner directly into first baseman Carlos Pena's glove in his first at-bat of the spring.

"I said to him, 'I haven't had a base hit since July, you could have let that one go by,'" Griffey said.

Actually, Griffey's last hit was on Aug. 4, and his final game of



**Cincinnati Reds designated hitter Ken Griffey Jr. grounds out in his first at-bat of the spring training season on Thursday. The Reds received permission to use Griffey as a designated hitter at home games this spring.**

2004 was two days later. Griffey has been sidelined by serious injuries each of the last four seasons. He had surgery Aug. 16 to reattach his torn right hamstring.

In his second and last at-bat of the Reds' 4-3 win over the Detroit Tigers, Griffey walked.

"We just wanted to get him two at-bats the first time out of the chute," Reds manager Dave Miley said. "Tomorrow we'll shoot for three."

At Jupiter, Fla., Walker was hitless in two at-bats and played four innings in the Cardinals' 4-2 victory over the Houston Astros.

Walker was limited since the start of spring training by lower back soreness, but he said he probably could have played four days earlier.

"I felt great," Walker said. "Got a couple of balls hit to me, so I was able to move. And I hit the ball all right my first time up. I felt comfortable, felt all right."

At Phoenix, Ben Sheets, who had offseason back surgery, made his spring debut and pitched a scoreless inning in the Milwaukee Brewers' 6-4 loss to the Kansas City Royals. Scheduled to throw one inning or 25 pitches, Sheets

needed just 12 pitches to retire the side in the first.

At Fort Myers, Fla., Scott Erickson improved his bid for the No. 5 spot in the Los Angeles Dodgers' rotation with four strong innings in their 2-1 win over the Boston Red Sox.

The 37-year-old Erickson had his third straight solid outing, allowing one run and two hits while striking out five and walking one. In nine innings of spring training, he's allowed one run and three hits with six strikeouts and two walks. The only run he allowed Thursday came on Manny Ramirez's second homer.

# Miller poised to be king of the slopes

After winning World Cup super-G crown, American on verge of taking overall title

The Associated Press

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland — Bode Miller tied with American teammate Daron Rahivels to win the final super-G of the season on Friday, virtually wrapping up the overall World Cup title.

Miller increased his overall World Cup lead to 184 points over Benjamin Raich of Austria, who finished 11th in Friday's race.

It was Miller's first World Cup victory since a slalom at Sestriere, Italy, on Dec. 13, and it ended Hermann Maier's pursuit of the World Cup super-G title.

The Austrian started the day with a 54-point lead over Miller in the super-G standings. Miller and Maier were the final two skiers down the course.

After Miller finished even with Rahivels in 1 minute, 10.24 seconds, Maier needed two-three finches to secure the title. He was ninth.

"I really had my heart set on that," said Miller, who became the first American to win the super-G title since the discipline was introduced in 1986. "It was matter of Hermann more than me. I did my part and then all I could do was watch him. He made a mistake in the middle and that was it."

Miller, who finished 17 points ahead of Maier in the final super-G standings, said he was helped by a course report from Rahivels, who won his first race of the season.

"I put down an amazingly aggressive run today," Rahivels said.

## Sports briefs

In the overall standings, Miller leads Raich 1,528 points to 1,344.

The only way Miller can lose the overall title is if Raich wins the remaining two races — Saturday's giant slalom and Sunday's slalom — and the American finishes outside the top 15 both days.

"There are still 200 points up for grabs," Miller said. "It's never over until it's mathematically over. Benni can win both events, so I need to ski well."

Miller is bidding to become the first American to win an overall title since Phil Mahre and Tamara McKinney in 1983.

## Dorfmeister wins super-G title

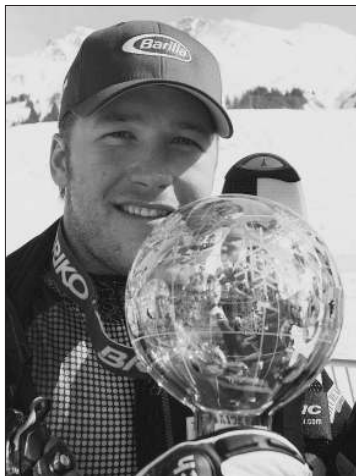
LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland — Austria's Michaela Dorfmeister won the final super-G slalom of the season on Friday, capturing the World Cup title in the discipline.

Sweden's Anja Paerson extended her lead over Croatia's Janica Kostelic in the overall standings with a third-place finish.

Dorfmeister, the 2001-02 overall winner, won the giant slalom title in 1999 and 2000 and the downhill crown in 2003.

Lindsey Kildor of the United States placed fourth on Friday and finished third in the super-G standings.

Paerson leads Kostelic by 89 points with Saturday's slalom and Sunday's giant slalom remaining. Victories are worth 100 points.



Bode Miller, above, is the first American to win the World Cup super-G title since the discipline was introduced in 1986. With a 184-point lead entering the final two races, Miller is poised to become the first American to win an overall title since Phil Mahre and Tamara McKinney in '83.

## First player arrested in German soccer scandal

FRANKFURT, Germany — A third-division soccer player suspected of helping to rig a game and threatening a witness was arrested Friday in Germany's game-fixing scandal.

Steffen Karl, a player for Chemnitz, became the first player to be arrested since the scandal broke in January. He was held on suspicion of fraud, plotting a crime and coercion, according to a statement by a district court in Berlin.

In addition to allegedly helping fix a game in May 2004, Karl is suspected of offering a bribe to the goalkeeper of another club to fix a second-division game. The goalkeeper refused and reported receiving threats.

Karl's arrest came one day after a second referee, Dominik Marks, was ordered held in investigative custody on suspicion of fixing three games.

Berlin prosecutors are investigating 25 people, including 14 players and four referees, on suspicion of manipulating at least 10 games, mostly in lower divisions.

# Campbell fires 64 in chilly Florida

The Associated Press

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — Chad Campbell warmed up as the weather did.

The burly Texan overcame a slow start in chilly, windy conditions

## Golf roundup

Thursday to shoot an 8-under-par 64 and take a two-stroke lead after the opening round of the Honda Classic.

Campbell began on the back nine shortly after 7 a.m. EST, when temperatures were in the 50s, and bogeyed Nos. 10 and 16. He holed a 70-yard shot on the par-5 17th for eagle, then followed with six birdies on the front nine.

Half of the 144-player field at the Country Club at Miraval finished before noon. Among those early starters, only Campbell shot better than 69, a reflection of the conditions.

"We were joking that maybe they let him on the member course," said Davis Love III, who was happy to shoot 71.

Alone in second place at 66 was Brett Wetterich, playing 10 minutes from his home in Jupiter. Jesper Parnevik, another Jupiter resident and the 2001 champion, shot 67 three days after turning 40. Both players benefited from mild afternoon weather.

The sky was clear all day, but winds exceeded 15 mph at the start, and with the grass still spongy from daylong rain Wednesday, the 7,468-yard course played long.

At 68 were Woody Austin, Nick Watney and Aaron Baddeley, who has finished in the top 10 in his past two starts. A group of 14 players at 69 included defending champion Todd Hamilton, Lee Janzen, Brad Faxon and 21-year-old Kevin Na, the youngest player on the tour.

Vijay Singh, playing his first round since he flew to No. 2 in the world rankings, shot 71.

## Els still even back in Qatar

DOHA, Qatar — Richard Green of Australia shot 4-under 68 Friday to take a one-stroke lead over Swedes Pierre Fulke and Robert Karlsson after the second round of the Qatar Masters.

Ernie Els, the only top-50 player in the field, shot a 69 after an opening 73 but remained seven strokes off the lead.

# Five-time winner withdraws from Iditarod

By RACHEL D'ORO

The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Rick Swenson, the only five-time winner of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, dropped out of the running Thursday — the first time he's abandoned the 1,100-mile trek to Nome in 29 years on the trail.

The 54-year-old musher from Two Rivers, Alaska, officially withdrew after returning to the checkpoint at McGrath, 722 miles from the finish line. Swenson told race managers he was concerned about the well-being of his dogs.

"He said they weren't running as well as he

wanted them to," race marshal Mark Nordman said.

Norwegian Robert Sorlie was the first musher to arrive early Thursday at the checkpoint in the ghost town of Iditarod — considered the halfway point.

For getting there first, the 47-year-old fire-fighter received \$4,000 in gold nuggets. Sorlie, of Hurdel, also was the first musher to reach the halfway point when he won the race in 2003 in 9 days, 15 hours and 47 minutes.

Sorlie's hold on the lead was tenuous because other top mushers have already satisfied the mandatory 24-hour rest period. That

could shake up the standings over the next day. Mushers are also required to take two eight-hour layovers.

Sorlie and other leaders — including four-winner Martin Buser of Big Lake, defending champion Mitch Seavey of Seward and three-time winner Jeff King of Denali Park — were expected to take their 24-hour rests at the Iditarod checkpoint, 590 miles from Nome.

Sorlie would not be able to leave Iditarod until early Friday morning, freeing up the trail for mushers who have gotten their 24-hour rests out of the way.

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# Favre retraining for 2005 season

## Packers QB tells coach of decision, based on wife's improving health

BY ARNIE STAPLETON

The Associated Press

For months, Green Bay Packers fans have worried about Brett Favre's future, wondering whether the three-time MVP was going to return or retire.

They got delightful news Thursday when coach Mike Sherman told The Associated Press that Favre will play in 2005 — and maybe beyond — because his wife's recovery from breast cancer is going so well.

As word spread across the NFL, Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle chimed in, issuing a statement of gratitude.

"Like all Packers fans, I am thrilled that Brett Favre will be returning to action next season for the green and gold," Doyle said. "He is probably the greatest quarterback of all time, and as long as he's around, the Packers will always be contenders."

"On behalf of Packers fans everywhere, I thank Brett Favre today for giving us one more reason to cheer."

Sherman said he had a two-hour conversation with his quarterback on Wednesday night. Favre informed him his wife is doing well in her cancer treatment, so he's planning to play at least one more season, maybe more if his health holds up.

Favre said after the Packers' playoff loss to Minnesota in January he wanted to reflect before committing to playing a 15th NFL season following a year of personal turmoil.

His wife, Deanna, was diagnosed with her illness in October, a week after the death of her 24-year-old brother in an ATV accident on the quarterback's property in Mississippi.

And Favre was still dealing with the stunning news of Reggie White's death on the day after Christmas, which came about a year after the death of Favre's father, Irv, from a heart attack.

"After the season, he just needed to think about some things," Sherman said.

"Any man would have to contemplate his future when his wife



AP

**In 2004, Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre passed for more than 4,000 yards and recorded his eighth 30-touchdown season.**

is fighting cancer. It's not like he had to work to make money. He didn't want to be a part-time husband and a part-time football player. It came down to his wife. If she's not healthy, it's obviously a different ballgame. But now she's doing good. She wants him to play."

It never was a question of diminished ability because, even at 35, Favre is still near the top of his game.

He exceeded 4,000 yards passing last season and had his eighth 30-touchdown season, twice as many as any quarterback in NFL history, and the Packers set franchise records for total offense and net yards passing in 2004.

"He's always been excited about playing football," Sherman said. "He's never lost his enthusiasm for the game. It's just his family situation was pulling at him."

Deanna Favre has completed her chemotherapy and is undergoing radiation treatment. "The Favres are helping put on a Faith Hill concert back home Saturday night to benefit breast cancer patients. Favre is scheduled to appear at the Packers' inaugural fan fest that morning in Green Bay, where he's sure to get a rousing welcome for his decision to stick around."

"As long as he can play at a Brett Favre level, he will," Sherman said, "unless some situation of the field, outside of football, affects him or his family."

# Jets sign QB Fiedler to back up Pennington

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — The New York Jets signed Jay Fiedler on Friday, giving the quarterback can provide experience and depth behind Chad Pennington.

Fiedler, who will be entering his 10th season, visited the team at its Hempstead complex Thursday and the sides started negotiating. He received a five-year deal with \$1.3 million guaranteed, including a \$500,000 signing bonus, according to his agent, Brian Levy.

Pennington is recovering from surgery on his right rotator cuff, and the Jets had no intention of bringing back Quincy Carter. Brooks Bollinger was the No. 3 quarterback last season, but is entering his third year in the league and needs more seasoning.

Fiedler, 33, spent the last five seasons with the Miami Dolphins and took considerable criticism as the successor to Dan Marino.

In five seasons with the Dolphins, Fiedler was 26-22 as a starter, throwing for 11,040 yards and 66 touchdowns, with 63 interceptions.

On Thursday, The New York Giants said in a news release that they pulled back their offer to free agent wide receiver Plaxico Burress, an announcement almost never made in the NFL.

Burress' agent said the player had rejected the team.

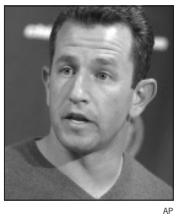


"The Giants made us an offer, we rejected, they upped their offer, we rejected it again, and that's when they said they had to rescind the deal," Michael Harrison told The Associated Press, saying Burress would next visit Minnesota.

■ Dwyer matched the New York Jets' offer sheet to tight end Jed Putzler, a restricted free agent. Putzler, who averaged 15.9 yards per catch last year on 36 receptions, will get \$12.5 million over five years, with a \$2.5 million signing bonus.

■ The Green Bay Packers released two-time Pro Bowl safety Darren Sharper to trim \$3.4 million off their salary cap and avoid having to pay him a \$2.6 million roster bonus this weekend. The team tried to get Sharper to restructure his deal, but he balked at a pay cut, hoping he can make more on the open market than the approximately \$2 million Green Bay was offering for 2005.

■ The Raiders re-signed guard Ron Stone just a week after waiving him in a salary cap maneuver. Stone, a three-time Pro Bowler, started only five games for the Raiders last season while slowed by an injured left knee.



AP

**Former Miami Dolphins QB Jay Fiedler, above, signed a five-year deal Friday to back up Chad Pennington for the New York Jets.**

■ Veteran kicker Joe Nedney, who missed nearly all the last two seasons with injuries, signed with San Francisco.

■ Philadelphia safety/kick returner J.R. Reed may not be ready for training camp after injuring his leg in a freak accident last month. Reed cut the back of his knee while jumping over a fence near his home in Tampa, Fla., and damaged a nerve that affects the use of his lower leg and foot.

He had surgery March 1, and his status is uncertain.

■ Carolina signed safety Marlon McCree, who played last season for Houston. He will back up Mike Minter and Colin Branch.

■ Brad Johnson, who quarterbacked Tampa Bay to the 2002 NFL championship, worked out for the Bears.

# Roush drivers on top, bottom as Nxtel Cup rolls into Vegas

BY JENNA FRYER

The Associated Press

**LAS VEGAS** — Kurt Busch is back in his hometown with a championship trophy and the Nxtel Cup points lead. What's he learned is that neither gets him very far.

"Vegas is a celebrity-driven city, so it takes a lot of people to get excited," he said. "But the times I have been back, there have been some spells and it's nice to be able to enjoy them, and for my friends and family to get some of that special treatment."

A victory at Las Vegas Motor Speedway would certainly get him a little more red-carpet treatment, and add Busch's name to the list of Roush Racing drivers who have won the UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400.

Roush drivers have won five of the seven Nxtel Cup races here, but series champion Busch isn't one of them. His ninth-place finish last season is his only Top 10 in four career starts here.

It could be the pressure. "Every time we go to Las Vegas it's like my own Daytona 500 with all of the media and family and

# Report: Tice says he sold his tickets to Super Bowl

The Associated Press

**MINNEAPOLIS** — Minnesota Vikings coach Mike Tice acknowledged scalping some of his personal Super Bowl ticket allotment last month in violation of NFL rules, according to a published report.

"I probably shouldn't have sold my tickets," Tice told SL.com in a report posted on the Web site Thursday night. "I made a mistake. I regret it. I'll never do it again. I'm going to be in trouble. I'll probably get slapped with a big fine."

The revelation came two days after SL.com first reported that Tice was being investigated for allegedly heading up a ticket-scalping operation within the Vikings organization.

Tice did not immediately return a phone message left late Thursday by The Associated Press.

The NFL acknowledged Wednesday that it is looking into allegations that Tice scalped Super Bowl tickets. Tice earlier confirmed to the AP that he had met with league security officials, but declined to elaborate.

NFL security investigators that he scalped part of his allotment of 12 tickets to this year's Super Bowl.

friends and the sheer excitement of the city and being back at home," Busch said.

But crew chief Jimmy Fennig is determined to help his driver leave a winner.

"This race means a lot to Kurt and the whole team is excited about going back out to Vegas," Fennig said. "We've never been as well here as we've wanted to, and we came out here to test last month and learned a few things that hopefully can pay off for us this weekend."

Busch's toughest competition could come from his own camp, with teammate Matt Kenseth will be looking for a trifecta. The 2003 series champion has won the past two Las Vegas races.

Kenseth isn't feeling too confident about another Sunday. "Just because you've had success in the past definitely doesn't guarantee it for this time or the next time," Kenseth said.

Known for consistency and a knack for being near the front of the pack in the conservative races, Kenseth has instead found himself way back in the field in the season's first two events.

A blown start led to a next-to-last-place finish in the season-opening Daytona 500, and he was 26th at California.

Now Kenseth, in the top 10 in points for the conservative weeks at the start of this season, is 36th in the standings.



Kurt Busch



# March Madness starts early in ACC

## Clemson sweeps Terps; Virginia rallies to hold off Miami

By JACQUES WHITE  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The NCAA bubble probably burst for Maryland and Miami. Pete Gillen's job security bubble remained intact — at least for another day.

Gillen's Virginia Cavaliers provided the biggest surprise in Thursday's first round of the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament, a come-from-behind 66-65 victory over Miami that had the embattled coach doing a little jig after a final three-pointer from the Hurricanes missed the mark at the final buzzer.

"I'm an emotional guy," Gillen said. "I cry when supermarkets open. The season's over if he makes the shot. We're excited to win. I'm happy for the players. They showed courage and confidence. We play them tomorrow, they probably beat us."

In their first-round games, Clemson defeated Maryland 84-72, and North Carolina State beat Florida State 70-54. Virginia plays Duke, Clemson faces North Carolina. N.C. State meets Wake Forest, and Virginia Tech plays Georgia Tech in Friday's quarterfinals.

The Cavaliers owed their victory to sophomore guard J.R. Reynolds, who scored a career-high 32 points and got virtually no support from his teammates until a 9-4 game-closing run.

"Once I saw my teammates were strug-

gling, I knew I had to step up and try to make some big shots," said Reynolds, who shot 10-for-14 from the field, including 5-for-7 from three-point range. "I wasn't trying to force anything. I was just trying to play within myself and do the things I'm capable of doing."

Despite the win, the Cavaliers will face the seeded Duke with Gillen's future still far from settled. Virginia (14-14) is seeded last in the tournament, the result of a five-game losing streak to end the regular season. The Cavaliers are 4-13 since being ranked in the Top 25 in late December and are in danger of their first losing season since Gillen's first year in 1998-99.

Guillermo Diaz scored with 20 points, his 26th consecutive double-digit game, to lead Miami (16-12), but he made just 5 of 15 shots. The Hurricanes shot 31 percent from the field and made just one field goal in the game's final 10 minutes.

Miami, predicted to finish last in the conference in the preseason poll, entered its first ACC tournament as the No. 6 seed in Frank Haith's first season as a head coach, but the loss probably ends any hope of receiving an at-large bid in the NCAA tournament. The Hurricanes have lost five of their last six.

"We missed a lot of shots around the hoop," Haith said. "We just didn't shoot the ball well. Virginia changed defenses, a lot of zone and man-to-man, but I thought we missed a lot of wide open shots, too. I thought we rushed some shots."

In the first game of the tournament,

ninth-seeded Clemson (16-14) ended the reign of the defending ACC champions with a surprisingly easy victory. It marked the first time in school history that the Tigers beat Maryland (16-12) three times in the same season.

Shawan Robinson made six three-pointers and scored 24 points for Clemson, which had lost four straight ACC tournament games since 2001. The Tigers never trailed in the second half.

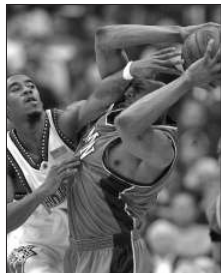
The loss dealt a serious blow to the eighth-seeded Terrapins' bid to reach the NCAA tournament for the 12th straight season. Maryland has lost four straight and five of six, the lone win in that stretch a double-overtime escape against last-place Virginia.

"The last 11 years we've gone. I'd like to go 12 straight, but that's entirely up to the selection committee," coach Gary Williams said. "Whatever we are, we are. Whatever happens, that's fine."

If the Terrapins end up in the NIT, they can only blame themselves. Maryland shot 35 percent, missed 10 free throws and committed 23 turnovers.

Chris Maynor hit the Terrapins with 14 points and six rebounds, while Nick Caner-Medley had a 14 on 5-for-17 shooting. John Gilchrist, a star in the ACC tournament last year, missed six of seven shots and scored just four points. He played only two minutes in the second half.

Seventh-seeded N.C. State (18-12) set up a revenge match with Wake Forest by cruising past 10th-seeded Florida State



CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/NYT

Maryland's Sterling Ledbetter (12) swipes at the ball while defending Clemson's Shad Ford (5) in the first round of the ACC Tournament on Thursday in Washington, D.C.

(12-19).

When the teams met last Sunday, Wake Forest's Chris Paul drove the length of the court to score the game-winner.

Earlier in that game, Paul punched N.C. State's Julius Hodge in the groin, leading to a one-game suspension for Paul, who was suspended for the rest of the season.

The Seminoles scored only 19 points in the first half and made a late run before falling.

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## Hack-a-Shaq pan fails for T-wolves

The Associated Press

MIAMI — When Minnesota went to the Hack-a-Shaq technique in the fourth quarter, Shaquille O'Neal turned toward Timberwolves coach Kevin McHale and shouted, "It don't work."

It didn't. And these days, everything is working for the Miami Heat.

O'Neal had 33 points, 13 rebounds, shot 10-for-18 from the

floor and 13-for-18 from the foul line to lift the Miami Heat to their seventh straight victory, 107-90 Thursday night over the Timberwolves.

He was 5-for-6 from the line during Minnesota's stint of intentional fouls, and had 12 points during a game-ending 41-16 Miami run.

"Historically, I've shot 50 percent, so that's my miss one and miss one," said O'Neal, a 46.9-percent free shooter this season. "The more attempts I get, it's like more practice. ... I'm not going to miss them all."

Miami, which had the league's lowest free-throw percentage (67%) coming into the game, was 23-for-41 from the line, compared with an 11-for-15 effort by the Timberwolves.

Dwayne Wade added 20 points for Miami, which won its 11th straight at home and expanded its lead in the Eastern Conference to eight games over idle Detroit.

Miami (47-16) has 19 regular-season games remaining.

Kevin Garnett had 22 points and 19 rebounds for Minnesota, which lost for the first time in four games. The Timberwolves were 7-1 in their last eight games against Miami and led by eight points with 2:21 left in the third quarter, but shot just 31.8 percent the rest of the way.

Troy Hudson added 20 points for Minnesota, which fell to 10th in the Western Conference — but just one game behind Denver for the final playoff spot.

"It's going to take a heck of an effort every night to get that championship," Garnett said.

**Lakers 100, Mavericks 95:** Kobe Bryant scored 36 points and made two huge plays in each end of the court in the last 120, giving Los Angeles a nice start to a long road trip.

Bryant, who also had nine rebounds, grabbed one of them after Dallas missed two potential go-ahead shots with just over a minute left. He took it all the way for a layup that put the Lakers up by three points, then came back and stripped Dirk Nowitzki from behind on a jump shot.

Bryant scooped up the loose ball and fed Jammie Jones for a layup, but he missed and Bryant wound up putting it back in for a 98-93 lead with 58 seconds left.

Nowitzki, who scored 25 points but shot just 6-for-19, missed a three-pointer with 11 seconds left that would have tied it at 98.

## NBA scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Miami	47	16	74%	
x-Detroit	37	22	62%	8
x-Boston	32	29	52%	14
Washington	33	28	55%	12
Cleveland	32	29	52%	13
Chicago	31	27	53%	13½
Orlando	31	27	53%	14
Indiana	30	28	50%	15
Philadelphia	29	42	39%	
New Jersey	27	45	38%	19
New York	26	43	38%	
Toronto	26	42	38%	20
Charlotte	24	44	35%	20
Milwaukee	12	46	20%	32½
Atlanta	10	50	17%	33½

### Western Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Phoenix	47	14	77%	
x-San Antonio	44	17	70%	
x-Seattle	41	18	69%	5
Dallas	39	21	65%	7
Sacramento	38	21	64%	8
Houston	35	25	58%	11
Memphis	34	26	57%	12
Denver	31	29	52%	15
L.A. Lakers	31	29	51%	15½
Minnesota	31	30	50%	16
L.A. Clippers	31	34	48%	20
Portland	22	37	37%	24
Utah	24	45	35%	26
Golden State	19	41	31%	28
New Orleans	13	47	21%	33½

**Thursday's games**  
Miami 107, Minnesota 90  
L.A. Lakers 100, Dallas 95

**Friday's games**  
Atlanta at Toronto  
Golden State at Indiana  
Charlotte at Philadelphia  
Minnesota at Orlando  
Detroit at Boston  
Dallas at Milwaukee  
Memphis at Utah  
Houston at Phoenix  
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento  
Chicago at Seattle

**Saturday's games**  
New Jersey at Miami  
Golden State at Atlanta  
L.A. Lakers at Orlando  
Milwaukee at New Orleans  
Denver at Charlotte  
Memphis at Portland

**Sunday's games**  
Dallas at Minnesota  
Houston at Sacramento  
Detroit at L.A. Clippers  
Utah at Detroit  
New Jersey at Orlando  
Washington at Boston

### Philadelphia at Toronto

Seattle at New York  
Phoenix at Cleveland  
Minnesota at Denver

### Thursday

### Heat 107, Timberwolves 90

**MINNESOTA** — Sprewell 31-11-7, Garrett 10-20-23, Johnson 24-6-9, Haase 7-14-21-6, Miller 5-7-0-10, Bryant 16-22-8-30-36, Scurry 34-0-10, Madison 34-0-6, Carter 1-1-0-2, Holberg 1-1-0-1. Totals 107-90, 11-55-90.

**MIAMI** — Jones 5-9-4-15, Hudson 5-6-0-10-21, O'Neal 10-18-18-13-33, James 3-6-0-7, Wade 5-17-9-20, Anderson 2-5-2-2-6, Doleac 0-2-0-0, Dooling 3-4-1-1-7, Laettner 2-4-4-8-15. Totals 95-107, 33-101-165.

**24 22 28 35-107**  
**Minnesota** — Three-Point Goals—Minnesota 3-4 (Hudson 2, Holberg 1-1, Miami 2-9 Jones, 1-3 O'Neal, 1-3 Anderson, 0-1 Laettner, 0-1 Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Minnesota 43 (Garrett 10, Miami 31 O'Neal 13, Assistants—Minnesota 16 (Garrett, Hudson 5), Miami 18 (O'Neal 5, Total Fouls—Minnesota 29, Miami 11. Technicals—Miami coach Van Gundy, Wade, A-15, Laettner (16-00).

### Lakers 100, Mavericks 95

**L.A. LAKERS** — Butler 2-6-0-2, Odom 5-13-5-15, Miller 5-7-0-10, Bryant 16-22-8-30-36, Atkins 41-1-2-13, Jones 2-8-0-6-9, Grant 1-0-2-0-2, Brown 0-1-0-0, Walton 2-4-0-4, Medvedenko 0-0-0-0. Totals 98-100, 21-100-100.

**12 22 27 33-100**  
**Minnesota** — Three-Point Goals—Minnesota 3-4 (Hudson 2, Holberg 1-1, Miami 2-9 Jones, 1-3 O'Neal, 1-3 Anderson, 0-1 Laettner, 0-1 Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Minnesota 43 (Garrett 10, Miami 31 O'Neal 13, Assistants—Minnesota 16 (Garrett, Hudson 5), Miami 18 (O'Neal 5, Total Fouls—Minnesota 29, Miami 11. Technicals—Miami coach Van Gundy, Wade, A-15, Laettner (16-00).

### NBA calendar

**April 20** — Regular season ends.  
**April 22** — NBA Draft.  
**June 7-10** — NBA predraft camp, Chicago.

**June 9** — Earliest possible start of NBA Finals.  
**June 21** — Early entry draft withdrawal deadline.  
**June 23** — Latest possible end of NBA Finals.  
**June 28** — NBA Draft, New York.

# Bufs' hot second-half shooting burns Longhorns

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Whatever happens from here, Colorado can at least claim a big Big 12 tournament history.

Until Thursday night, a No. 1 seed had never won an opening-round game since the Big 12 opened play in the 1996-97 season. That all changed, though, when the Buffaloes overcame horrible first-half shooting performance to upset Texas 81-69.

"We just felt that we were better than our record indicated," said freshman Richard Roby, who led Colorado (14-15) with 17 points and 10 rebounds. "We felt we

Big  
12

could win. We didn't want our season to end today."

The Buffaloes shot just 13-for-36 in the first half but were 14-for-27 after

the break.

The sixth-seeded Longhorns (20-10) struggled with their shots throughout, making just 36 percent of their field goals for the game (20 of 58).

"We have to play smarter," said Daniel Gibson, the Big 12 freshman of the year, who was 2-of-6 from three-point range and finished with 11 points.

"We were shooting three when we

knew they couldn't handle the big guys inside."

The Longhorns, who were nine of 35 from three-point range, led 49-46 with just over 13 minutes left before the Buffaloes went on a 15-1 run.

Texas pulled within 65-60 on Kenton Paulson's three-point play with 7:20 remaining, but the Buffaloes responded with seven straight points to go up 72-60 with just over 4½ minutes left.

In other Big 12 games Thursday:

**Iowa State 77, Baylor 57:** Rashawn Clark scored a career-high 20 points and Jared Homan added 17 for the fifth-seeded Cyclones (18-10), who led 17-0 and won

the 10th time in 12 games. After falling behind by 20 in the opening minutes, the Bears (9-19) never got closer than 12 points.

**Kansas St. 68, Texas A&M 62:** Jeremiah Massey scored six of his 18 points in a decisive 14-4 second-half run that propelled the Reddies (17-11) to their first tournament win since 2002.

Antoine Wright had 28 points for the Aggies (19-9), winless in the tournament since the inception of the Big 12.

**Missouri 70, Nebraska 67:** Linas Kleiza scored 26 points as the Tigers (16-15) defeated the Cornhuskers (14-14) for the third time this season.

## Conference tournaments

### America East

**Championship**  
**Saturday**  
Northeast at Vermont

### Atlantic Coast

**Thursday**  
Clemson 84, Maryland 72  
North Carolina St. 78, Florida St. 54  
Virginia 66, Virginia Tech 66

**Friday**  
Wake Forest vs. Georgia Tech  
North Carolina vs. N.C. State  
Duke vs. Virginia

**Saturday**  
N. Carolina vs. Va. Tech  
Wake Forest vs. N.C. State  
Duke vs. Virginia

**Sunday**  
Championship

### Atlantic 10

**Thursday**  
Saint Joseph's 63, Richmond 51  
Xavier 83, La Salle 70  
George Washington 73, Fordham 63

**Friday**  
Saint Joseph's vs. Xavier  
George Washington vs. Temple

**Saturday**  
Championship

### Big East

**Thursday**  
West Virginia 78, Boston College 72  
Villanova 69, Pittsburgh 66  
Connecticut 66, Georgetown 62

**Friday**  
Syracuse vs. Rutgers  
West Virginia vs. Villanova

**Saturday**  
Connecticut vs. Syracuse  
Championship

### Big Ten

**Thursday**  
Northwestern 58, Michigan 56  
Iowa 71, Purdue 52  
Ohio State 70, Penn State 69

**Friday**  
Illinois 68, Northwestern 51  
Michigan State vs. Indiana  
Michigan State vs. Iowa

**Saturday**  
Illinois vs. Minnesota  
Michigan State vs. Wisconsin/Ohio St.

**Sunday**  
Championship

### Big 12

**Thursday**  
Missouri 70, Nebraska 67  
Iowa State 77, Baylor 57  
Kansas State 68, Texas A&M 62

**Friday**  
Colorado 81, Texas 69  
Oklahoma 85, Missouri 79

**Saturday**  
Texas Tech vs. Iowa State  
Kansas vs. Kansas State  
Oklahoma vs. Texas Tech

**Sunday**  
Oklahoma vs. Texas Tech  
Kansas vs. Kansas St. vs. Okla. St./Colorado

**Sunday**  
Championship

### Big West

**Thursday**  
Cal State Fullerton 66, UC Santa Barbara 56  
Cal State Northridge 72, UC Irvine 56

**Friday**  
Pacific vs. Cal State Northridge  
Utah State vs. Cal State Fullerton

**Saturday**  
Championship

### Conference USA

**Thursday**  
Louisville 85, Charlotte 61  
Alabama-Birmingham 59, DePaul 56

**Friday**  
Memphis 83, Cincinnati 68  
Louisville vs. Alabama-Birmingham

**Saturday**  
Memphis vs. South Florida  
Championship

### Mid-American

**Thursday**  
Buffalo 85, Toledo 77  
W. Michigan 66, Akron 60, OT  
Miami (Ohio) 85, Bowling Green 65

**Friday**  
Miami (Ohio) vs. Ohio  
Buffalo vs. Western Michigan

**Saturday**  
Championship

### Mid-Eastern Athletic

**Thursday**  
South Carolina State 78, Norfolk State 59  
Coppin State 60, Morgan State 43

**Friday**  
Delaware State vs. South Carolina State  
Hampton vs. Coppin State

**Saturday**  
Championship

### Mountain West

**Thursday**  
Utah 62, Colorado St. 49  
UNLV 70, Wyoming 61

**Friday**  
New Mexico 65, Brigham Young 71  
San Diego State 73, Air Force 68

**Saturday**  
Utah vs. UNLV  
New Mexico vs. San Diego State

**Sunday**  
Championship

### Pacific-10

**Thursday**  
Arizona 88, California 53  
Oregon State 79, UCLA 72

**Friday**  
Washington 55, Arizona 55  
Stanford 60, Washington State 58

**Saturday**  
Arizona vs. Oregon State  
Washington vs. Stanford

**Sunday**  
Championship

### Patriot

**Championship**  
**Friday**  
Bucknell at Holy Cross

### Southwestern

**Thursday**  
Mississippi 51, South Carolina 52  
Mississippi State 76, Georgia 65

**Friday**  
Tennessee 66, Arkansas 46  
Auburn 77, Vanderbilt 73

**Saturday**  
Alabama 69, Mississippi 52  
Florida vs. Mississippi State

**Sunday**  
Kentucky vs. Tennessee  
LSU vs. Auburn

**Sunday**  
Alabama vs. Florida/Mississippi  
Kentucky/Tennessee vs. LSU/Auburn

**Sunday**  
Championship

### Southland

**Thursday**  
Northwestern State 75, Southern 75  
SE Louisiana 71, San Houston State 62

**Sunday**  
SE Louisiana at Northwestern State

### Southwestern Athletic

**Thursday**  
Jackson St. 57, Mississippi Valley 55  
Southern 69, Grambling 65, OT

**Friday**  
Alabama State 64, Prairie View A&M 52  
Alabama A&M 64, Jackson-Pine Bluff 52

**Saturday**  
Southern vs. Alabama State  
Jackson State vs. Alabama A&M

**Sunday**  
Championship

### Western Athletic

**Thursday**  
Rice 63, Idaho 50, Hawaii 62  
Rice 63, Southern Methodist 47

**Friday**  
Fresno State 84, Louisiana Tech 81, OT  
Louisiana Tech 73, Nevada 72

**Saturday**  
Rice vs. Idaho  
Fresno State vs. Boise State

**Sunday**  
Championship

# Air Force upset in MWC

The Associated Press

DENVER — Brandon Heath scored 28 points and Marcus Slaughter added 24, helping San Diego State knock off No. 3 seed Air Force 73-68 Thursday night in the first round of the Mountain West Conference tournament.

San Diego State (11-17) led by 13 in the second half before Air Force (18-12) used pressure defense and timely outside shots to cut into its deficit.

The Falcons trailed 65-62 after Matt McCraw's three-point shot, but he missed the shot. Then, on a break when the Aztecs' Matt Thomas missed two free throws, but Air Force couldn't get the rebound and Jacob Butschgi was assessed a technical foul for arguing a call. San Diego State then made four free throws to secure its second first-round tournament victory in six years.

The Falcons, who reached the NCAA tournament last year for the first time since 1962, lost their 13th consecutive conference tournament game.

In other MWC tournament games Thursday:

**New Mexico 85, BYU 71:** Led by 23 points from Danny Granger and a career-high 12 assists from Mark Walters, the Lobos (24-6) beefed up their resume against overmatched BYU (9-21).

**UNLV 70, Wyoming 63:** Michael Umeh scored 20 points, his 21 points in the first half and Ricky Morgan hit 14 straight free throws in the final five minutes to lift the Rebels (16-12) over the Cowboys (15-13).

**No. 15 Utah 62, Colorado St. 49:** Andrew Bogut had 21 points and 17 rebounds as the Utes (26-4) cruised past the Rams (11-17).

### Pac-10

**No. 8 Arizona 88, Cal 63:** At Los Angeles, Channing Frye scored 22 points on 10-of-11 shooting to pace the top-seeded Wildcats (26-5) to their 14th victory in 16 games. Eighth-seeded Cal (13-16) ended its season with seven losses in eight games.

**No. 14 Washington 95, Arizona 60 (OT):** Nate Robinson scored six of his 29 points in overtime to boost the second-seeded Huskies (25-5). Pac-10 player of the week, Robinson, had 21 points, 13 rebounds and a tournament-record five blocks for Arizona State (18-13).

**Oregon St. 79, UCLA 72:**

## Conference tourneys

Chris Stephens scored 17 points

and Nick DeWitt added 15 to help the fifth-seeded Beavers (17-13) win for the first time this season away from home. Fourth-seeded UCLA (18-10) was led by Dijon Thompson's 18 points.

**Stanford 60, Washington St. 58:** Rob Little scored his second basket of the game with 17 seconds remaining to break a tie and help No. 3 seed Stanford (18-11) beat the Cougars (12-16) for the first time this season.

### Southeastern

**Auburn 77, Vanderbilt 73:** At Atlanta, Tony Douglas scored 23 points as the Tigers (14-16) held on to beat the Commodores (18-13) despite losing nearly all of a 20-point second-half lead.

**Tennessee 65, Arkansas 46:** Scott McAdams scored 22 points and the Volunteers (14-16) took control in the first half with a 21-2 run. The Razorbacks (18-12) trailed by 10 at halftime and never threatened to make it close.

**Mississippi St. 76, Georgia 65:** Shane Power scored 15 points and the Bulldogs (22-9) parlayed a 25-9 second-half run into a victory over Georgia (8-9).

**Mississippi 53, South Carolina 52:** Tommie Eddie scored 17 points and the Rebels (14-16) won after officials overturned a tying three-point play by the Gamecocks (15-13), determining via replay that Te Kelly had his foot on the three-point line when he made the final basket of the game.

### Atlantic 10

**Temple 61, Dayton 51:** At Cincinnati, despite coach John Chaney's suspension, the Owls (16-12) used intimidating tactics to thwart the Flyers (18-11), who shot 34.5 percent from the field.

**Saint Joseph's 63, Richmond 51:** Dave Mallon scored a career-high 17 points and conference co-player of the year Pat Carroll added 16 points for the top-seeded Hawks (18-10).

**George Washington 79, Fordham 63:** Pops Mensah-Bonsu scored 21 points and Mike Hall added 16 as the Colonials (20-7) beat the Rams (13-16) for the sixth consecutive time.

**Xavier 83, La Salle 70:** Stanley

Burrell and Justin Cage had 16 points apiece for the Musketeers (17-11) against La Salle (10-19).

### Western Athletic Conf.

**Boise St. 73, No. 24 Nevada 72:** At Reno, Nev., Jermaine Blackburn scored off a rebound of a missed free throw with 1.8 seconds left as the eighth-seeded Broncos (15-17) snipped Nevada's 10-game winning streak.

Nick Fazekas scored 18 points for top-seeded Wolf Pack (24-6).

### Fresno St. 84, Louisiana Tech 80

At Shreveport, La., Coleman scored seven of his 24 points in overtime to lift the fourth-seeded Bulldogs (16-11) over fifth-seeded Louisiana Tech (14-15).

**Rice 63, SMU 47:** Michael Harris scored 25 points and J.R. Harrison added 11 for the third-seeded Owls (19-10). SMU is 14-14.

**UTEP 80, Hawaii 62:** Omar Thomas scored 21 points and Filberto Rivera had 19 to help the UTEP (25-7) rout No. 7 seed Hawaii (16-13).

### Mid-American

**Miami (Ohio) 85, Bowling Green 65:** At Cleveland, Daniel

Harris scored a career-high 28 points, Chet Mason added 21 and top-seeded Miami (Ohio) (19-9) averaged last week's record to the eighth-seeded Bulldogs (18-11).

**Ohio 62, Kent State 55:** Conference freshman of the year Leon Williams had 14 points and 16 rebounds to lead the fourth-seeded Bobcats (14-16) to a victory over the eighth-seeded Golden Flashes (20-12).

**Buffalo 85, Toledo 72:** Calvin Cade scored 23 points to help the seventh-seeded Bulls (21-8) avenge a loss to the Rockets (16-13) in last year's quarterfinals.

**W. Michigan 66, Akron 60 (OT):** Ben Reed scored 24 points and the third-seeded Broncos (19-11) used all 16 as the fourth-seeded Matadors (17-12) dispatched the defending tournament champion Zips (19-10).

### Big West

**CS Northridge 72, UC Irvine 56:** At Anaheim, Calif., Joseph Frazier scored 18 points and Ian Boylan had 16 as the fourth-seeded Matadors (17-12) dispatched the defending tournament champion Titans (16-13).

**Cal St. Fullerton 66, UC Santa Barbara 55:** Ralph Holmes had 20 points and 11 rebounds to boost the third-seeded Titans (19-9) over the seventh-seeded Gauchos (11-18).

# Big East beast?

## Surprising West Virginia knocks off top seed; No. 19 Villanova next in line for Mountaineers

BY DENNIS WASZAK JR.

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — With chants of "ACC! ACC!" and "Over-rated," the Big East tournament crowd sarcastically wished Boston College a not-so-fond farewell.

The top-seeded Eagles, who are moving to the Atlantic Coast Conference next season, couldn't overcome a 25-point deficit and dropped a 78-72 decision to upstart West Virginia in the quarterfinals Thursday.

"I think people are down after losing this game right here," Eagles forward Jared Dudley said. "High hopes, high expectations for us to come in this tournament, make it to the championship game and win it. So, you know, with this loss, it's a setback."

"But that's all it is. We're going to bounce back."

The seventh-ranked Eagles (24-4) better hope so, and fast. They shared the regular-season title with Connecticut, but sputtered through their last eight games, going just 4-4.

"Guys have to take a little pride in themselves and with their team and go out and work harder," Boston College coach Al Skinner said. "It's just that simple. Our preparation, our focus has got to be there. Right now, it's lacking."

The same couldn't be said of West Virginia (20-9), which very likely wrapped up at least an NCAA tournament at-large bid by impressing the selection committee with the surprising victory over the Big East's top seed.

"Obviously, I'm biased, but they will choose the right teams and there's no doubt in our minds that we're one of the right teams," West Virginia coach John Beilein said.

Mike Gansey scored 21 points and Kevin Pittsnogle added 17 for the eight-seeded Mountaineers.

"It's a great feeling to come in here, play against a good team and prove that we're a good team," Pittsnogle said. "We're having a lot of fun."

Making the win even more impressive for the Mountaineers was that they did it without

top scorer Tyrone Sally, who missed the game with a stomach ailment.

Craig Smith scored 20 points and grabbed eight rebounds for Boston College.

Gansey's three-point play won 19 seconds into the second half gave West Virginia a 47-22 lead. Boston College went on runs of 10-0 and 11-5 and pulled to 62-58 with 4:41 left before the Mountaineers regained control.

**No. 19 Villanova 67, No. 22 Pittsburgh 58:** Randy Foye scored 23 points and Villanova (22-6) won its eighth straight, advancing to the semifinals for the second straight year.

"We played great team defense," Villanova coach Jay Wright said. "We knew Pittsburgh would be tough and they were. This was an old-school Big East game, a bloodbath."

The loss ended a four-year run of championship game appearances for Pittsburgh (20-8).

**No. 12 Connecticut 66, Georgetown 62:** Freshman Rudy Gay had 17 points for Connecticut, which hung on despite getting only one basket in the final five minutes.

The second-seeded and 12th-ranked Huskies (22-6) have been in the last three championship games, winning the title in 2002 and 2004, and have reached the semifinals seven of the last eight years.

The Huskies had to sweat this one out as they won their seventh straight and 10th of 11.

"I think we played one of our poorer games and a lot of that was caused by Georgetown," Huskies coach Jim Calhoun said.

Ashanti Cook had 17 points for the Hoyas (17-12).

**No. 16 Syracuse 81, Rutgers 57:** Gerry McNamara scored 25 points and Hakim Warrick added 25 points and 13 rebounds to lead third-seeded and 16th-ranked Syracuse (25-6) into the semifinals against Connecticut. The Huskies swept the Orange this season, including an 88-70 victory last Saturday to wrap up the regular season.

"They got us the last two games, so we definitely know what to expect," Warrick said of Connecticut.

Quincy Douby had 14 points to lead Rutgers (10-19), which was trying to reach the semifinals for just the second time in school history.



Hakim Warrick soars for a dunk in Syracuse's 81-57 romp over Rutgers on Thursday night.

## Louisville and upsets highlight C-USA play

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Larry O'Bannon scored 18 points to lead five Louisville players in double figures, and the sixth-ranked Cardinals beat TCU 85-61 in the quarterfinals of the Conference USA tournament.

The top-seeded Cardinals (27-4) led throughout in winning their seventh straight game and 16th in the last 17.

TCU (19-13) stayed close for the first 11 minutes before Louisville blew out the Horned Frogs, as happened in four of the previous five meetings.

Francisco Garcia had 15 points for Louisville, Taquan Dean finished with 12 and Otis George added 11. Ellis Myrland had 10 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists.

**South Florida 80, No. 21 Cincinnati 68:** Terrence Leather scored 16 of his 21 points in the second half to lead South Florida's upset of the Bearcats.

The 11th-seeded Bulls (14-15) haven't won three straight games, reached the tournament semifinals for the first time in their last season as a member. The Bulls will be playing in the Big East next season, along with Louisville and Cincinnati (24-7).

Brian Swift added 16 points for the Bulls, James Holmes and Marlyn Bryant each had 14.

Jason Maxie led Cincinnati with 21 points, Eric Hicks added 18 and James White had 10. The Bearcats had won 14 straight over South Florida.

**Memphis 83, No. 25 Charlotte 69:** Rodney Carney scored 20 points as Memphis (18-14) continued its run through the conference tournament. Memphis, seeded seventh, won for the second straight night in a season-ending four-game skid. St. Louis, Memphis' first victim in the tournament, was one of the losses during that stretch, and Charlotte was another.

Memphis used strong rebounding to benefit from 35 percent by second-seeded Charlotte (21-7). Memphis outboarded the 49ers 45-33, including 22 offensive rebounds that led to 28 second-chance points.

Curtis Withers led the 49ers with 32 points, while C-USA play after the year Eddie Basden scored.

**Ala.-Birmingham 59, DePaul 56:** Demario Edkins hit a three-pointer from the left corner with 0.8 seconds left, rallying Alabama-Birmingham (21-9) into the second round.

Edkins' three-pointer from the top of the key had given the Blazers their first lead of the game at 56-55 with 18 remaining. He finished with 11 as did Donell Taylor. Marvett McDonald and Marques Lewis had 10 each for the fourth-seeded Blazers.

Quavon Greer led DePaul with 15 points and five rebounds.

DePaul (19-10) with 17 points and nine rebounds.

## Big Ten salutes Keady as his Boilermakers fall

BY NANCY ARMOUR

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Maybe if the season hadn't been so dismal, the losses so frequent, Gene Keady would have felt differently as he walked off the court for the last time.

Instead, there was almost a sense of relief as he left to one more standing ovation. He spent 25 years stalking the sidelines at Purdue, scowling and looking as if he was having a miserable time, and he loved every bit of it.

It's time for something else now.

"It's kind of pleasant," he said Thursday after his career ended with Purdue's 71-52 loss to Iowa in the Big Ten tournament.

"I'm going to do what my wife has always wanted me to do: Stay home and do some work."

In other games on the tournament's opening day, Michigan (15-15) held off second-round berth opposite top-ranked Illinois

(29-1), and Ohio State (20-11) rallied past scrapy Penn State (7-24) and will now face No. 23 Wisconsin (20-7).

Thanks to its victory over Purdue, Iowa (20-10) advanced to face No. 13 Michigan State (22-5).

The 68-year-old Keady said last spring that he would return to Purdue for one last season. He helped pick his successor, Matt Painter, and hoped that would smooth the transition.

But nothing went smoothly at Purdue this year. Already down from several weak recruiting classes, the Boilermakers were hit hard by the injury bug. Leading scorer and rebounder Carl Landry blew out his knee and David Teague, second in scoring, was limited by a broken hand.

Purdue finished 7-21, only the third time Keady has had a losing record at the school. The Boilermakers didn't win a game away from Macksy Arena since 1981. Purdue was just 3-13 in Big Ten play, the worst showing of Keady's career.

"If we'd been winning and had a great year, and everything was going like it was supposed to, it might have been different, but not when you get beat," Keady said when asked if he was sad about leaving. "I just don't like the way things are. It's kind of like a mercy killing. 'Pull the plug, boys, and let's get out of here.' It's no fun."

His last game was no different. Purdue was out of it almost from the start, done in by the Hawkeyes' barrage of three-pointers. Less than six minutes into the game, the Boilermakers were down 12-2 and could not recover.

Keady looked as if he was in physical pain as he sat on the bench, squirming in his seat, scowling at errant passes, winging at free shots. He ran his hand up to that infamous convolver countless times, and leaned back, exhaling in disgust.

"I just feel for him that his last year was out of it almost from the start, and the way it did," said Iowa coach Steve Alford, who played against Keady when he was at Indiana. "I hope watch-

er it is, it's his wishes and it's what he wants to do. I know he can walk away right now and feel very satisfied he's had a phenomenal career."

Keady leaves with a career record of 550-289 that includes six Big Ten titles and 17 NCAA tournament appearances. In a time when coaches come and go more quickly than players, he's a special breed: a coach with staying power. Syracuse's Jim Boeheim and Sacred Heart's Dave Burke are the only active Division I coaches to have stayed longer at one school. Mike Krzyzewski is in his 25th season at Duke.

He's also the last of the Big Ten's old guard, coaches who spent decades at one school and built intense rivalries in the process: Jud Heathcote at Michigan State, Lou Henson at Illinois, Tom Davis at Iowa, and, of course, the biggest rival of all, Bob Knight at Indiana.

"He has great ethics, great character, great integrity," Alford said. "He has done so much for our game at every level that he is going to be missed."

## SPORTS

Schilling will appear at steroids hearing;  
Canseco wants immunity for testimony,  
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# Tar Heels tiptoe past Tigers

## Felton keeps UNC from falling against No. 9 seed Clemson

BY KEITH PARSONS  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Raymond Felton made the go-ahead three-pointer with the shot clock winding down in the final 90 seconds, and No. 2 North Carolina avoided the biggest upset in Atlantic Coast Conference tournament history with an 88-81 victory over Clemson on Friday in the quarterfinals.

Since the conference expanded to nine teams in 1992 — it since has gone to 11, and Boston College joins next season — no ninth-seeded team has beaten the No. 1 seed. The Tar Heels (27-3) clearly were on the ropes, trailing by 13 points with about 9 minutes left before rallying behind Felton, their All-ACC point guard.

He had 24 of his career-high 29 points in the second half and scored the final 10 points for North Carolina. Time and again down the stretch, he drove to the basket and either scored or drew a foul, and his three with 5½ minutes remaining cut the margin to two.

The Tigers (16-15) increased their lead to five on a three-point play by Olu Babalola, and they led 79-77 on Vernon Hamilton's over-the-shoulder layup with 2:30 left. Rashad McCants, playing for the first time since missing four games with an intestinal disorder, made a free throw and Clemson missed a pair of shots on its next possession.

That set up Felton's fourth and final three-pointer. With the shot clock under 10, he shot from a few steps beyond the arc, and it swished through for the Tar Heels' first lead since late in the first half. Shawan Robinson tried to answer on the other end, but his effort fell well short of the rim, and Felton and North Carolina held on.

Robinson had 15 of his 17 points in the first half, a day after he scored 24 points in an upset of Maryland. Hamilton added 16 and Sharrod Ford finished with 15 for the Tigers.

McCants, Sean May and Jawad Williams all had 13 for the Tar Heels, who advanced to the semifinals against the winner of the Georgia Tech-Virginia Tech game later Friday.

North Carolina seemingly locked up a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament with a dramatic victory over Duke earlier in the week that secured its first outright regular-season title since 1993. But Clemson, playing inspired basketball in the last couple of weeks to win four of its previous five games, gave the Tar Heels all they could handle.

**More conference tournaments inside:**

■ **Defending ACC champ Maryland knocked out in first round, Page 33**

■ **Purdue's long season, Keady's career end with loss to Iowa, Page 35**

■ **Louisville defeats TCU for 16th victory in past 17 games, Page 35**



North Carolina coach Roy Williams reacts to a call during his team's game against Clemson in the ACC tournament Friday at the MCI Center in Washington. Carolina won 88-81.



**Favre tells Pack he'll be back for at least one more season**

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**Jets sign former Dolphins QB Fiedler to back up Pennington**

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**Miller clinches super-G title, inches closer to winning overall World Cup crown**

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# Texas toppled by Colorado in Big 12 tourney

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